

THE INDEPENDENT

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NEW SPORT SECTION

12 PAGES OF THE BEST OF THE WEEKEND'S ACTION

PLUS IN THE REVIEW: BILL BRYSON, DEBORAH ROSS, DONALD MACINTYRE, HUNTER DAVIES

SPECIAL PRICE

30



The purple-leaved plum, 'Prunus cerasifera atropurpurea', in bloom yesterday at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, two months early

John Voos

Spring bursts into flower a month early

THE WHITE plum blossoms at Kew confirm it: spring this year is earlier than ever.

Early-blooming flowers and trees at the Royal Botanic Gardens strongly support the view of scientists who claimed last week that spring is arriving in Europe on average six days earlier than it was 30 years ago.

Like the blossoms of the purple-leaved plum, *Prunus cerasifera atropurpurea*, scores of plants at Kew are currently flowering up to a month early, according to Nigel Hepper, who has carefully noted flowering dates in the west London gardens for 40 years.

When he began, the plum was a species that regularly flowered in the last week of March, and his meticulous records show it appearing as late as 13 April in 1979. But this year, it came out in the last week of January and it is now nearly finished.

"It normally comes out in the last week of March," said Mr Hepper, holding a branch close to his face.

"This year it came out in the last week of January. Two months earlier than in the past. Remarkable. Remarkable."

Kew's wild daffodils, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, came out as late as 10 April in 1988 but have been flowering for much of February and are now also nearly over.

Across the gardens, the story is the same: the pink of *Prunus subhirtella*, the weeping spring cherry, the intense lilac of *Lathraea clandestina*, American toothwort, the glorious bright blue of *Scilla bifolia*, Alpine squill, are all, by Mr Hepper's calculations, visible very much earlier than they were two or three decades ago.

Scientists from the University of Munich claimed last week in the journal *Nature* that Europe's new early spring is due to global warming, caused by the build-up of carbon dioxide and other industrial gases in the atmosphere.

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

Mr Hepper's recording of Kew's flowering dates has been entirely unofficial and a pastime, because such monitoring was previously regarded as somewhat "trainspotterish" by other scientists. "It doesn't cost anything and needs no sophisticated equipment, so it was rather frowned upon."

But the advent of the threat of climate change and its potential disruption of all ecosystems has suddenly made its value as an important indicator clear. Imperial College, London, is now collating his records into a proper database.

As a botanist rather than a climatologist, Mr Hepper, 69, a rainforest expert who has now retired, cannot be sure of the cause, but he is certainly sure of the effect.

His records of 5,000 different species show, without doubt, that many of Kew's flowers, shrubs and trees are pushing up, budding and flowering much sooner than they once were. Is it global warming? "Let's say it looks very suspicious."

And by how much has spring shifted? "My impression is that over 40 years, it is several weeks earlier."

He smiles. His 70th birthday is in a fortnight. "The trouble is, one doesn't live long enough to confirm it, or otherwise."

Looks fairly convincing from here, Mr Hepper.

Leading article, Review, page 3

Israeli blitz on Lebanon after general is killed

ISRAEL ORDERED a ground, sea and air assault on Lebanon last night in revenge for the killing of a general by the Islamic group, Hizbollah.

Turning the full force of Israel's military might on his northern neighbour, the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu said he would "strike" Hizbollah "and will continue striking with much force".

As Israeli warships pounded targets south of Beirut and jets bombed Baalbek in the east of Lebanon, the danger grew of extensive civilian casualties on the ground, and of drawing in Israel's neighbour, Syria.

Israel's Defence Minister, Moshe Arens, standing alongside the army chief and the Prime Minister at a news conference, said the campaign had

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

begun with air strikes on Hizbollah targets north of Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone. "This evening the army started a response that I hope will be understood properly by all those who must understand our response," Mr Arens said.

Witnesses reported seeing troop movements along the border with Lebanon.

Mr Netanyahu said the campaign would expand according to Israel's assessment of the situation. "We have carried out a strike on the Hizbollah and will continue striking with much force," he said.

The government ordered 200,000 people in the north of Israel to go into bomb shelters in

preparation for expected attacks by the guerrillas in the form of Katyusha rockets.

People in northern Galilee were told to stop preparations for the religious holiday of Purim and to take refuge underground instead, as they have done in the past.

The killing of 38-year-old General Erez Gerstein in an ambush has shocked Israel's military establishment.

The guerrillas detonated bombs close to a convoy carrying General Gerstein, killing him, two other Israeli soldiers and an Israeli journalist.

The general was travelling in an armoured-plated Mercedes four miles from the Israel's northern border when the car was torn apart by the blast.

The Israeli army has been fighting Hizbollah in the zone

occupied by Israel in south Lebanon for more than 10 years.

"Israel could not tolerate this kind of repeated attack on its territory, on its citizens and on its soldiers," Mr Netanyahu said. The scope of Israeli retaliation will become clear over the next few days. In 1996, Israel launched a prolonged bombardment of southern Lebanon, which led to the flight of most of its population and the death of some 200 Lebanese civilians.

Israel is only 10 weeks from an election and the government will not want to be accused of weakness.

The death of General Gerstein follows another Hizbollah ambush last week which killed the commander of an elite paratroop unit and two of his officers.

Israeli officials admit that Hizbollah has become more skilled in recent years, fielding 600 highly experienced guerrillas. An ominous development for Israel is that Hizbollah has highly accurate information about the movement of Israeli commanders and their units. On several occasions Israeli forces intending to ambush Hizbollah have been caught by surprise themselves. Eighteen months ago 11 members of a naval commando force were wiped out when they launched a deep penetration raid.

The ambush of General Gerstein's car was extremely elaborate. It was the first in a four-vehicle convoy when 10 bombs, some hanging from trees, were exploded simultaneously killing all the men inside the Mercedes instantly.

Hizbollah then laid down a mortar barrage on nearby positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army to cover their retreat.

General Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli chief of staff, said Israel would attack the infrastructure of the Hizbollah organisation without injuring civilians.

The death of a senior Israeli commander will affect the Israeli election in May, propelling the Israeli presence in Lebanon forward as an issue. Some 63 per cent of Israelis said in a recent poll that they thought the government was not doing enough to resolve the Lebanon problem, but only a minority favour a unilateral withdrawal.

Israel lost only 21 soldiers in Lebanon last year.

General's death, page 12

A mountain to climb on racism, says Blair

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

BRITAIN HAS a "mountain to climb" before it becomes a decent multicultural society, Tony Blair warns today as the Government continues to digest the damning conclusions of the Lawrence report.

The Prime Minister's comments follow a television interview yesterday with Doreen Lawrence - mother of the murdered black teenager Stephen - in which she said it was unlikely that the family would ever see justice done for their son.

The Prime Minister, who last week praised the courage and tenacity of the Lawrence family, admits Britain lags behind the United States, where Colin Powell was able to rise to the top of the US military, in spite of racial problems there.

"There is no parallel in

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today's Britain. We still have a mountain to climb before we have a decent, modern, multicultural society we can all be proud of. I want to make Britain a beacon to the world in race equality," he says. "In all honesty, I don't think I can say that enough has been done to improve race relations in the UK."

His remarks in *New Nation*, a newspaper for the black community, will be reinforced today in a speech by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to

senior police officers. He will tell delegates at a policing seminar in Gloucestershire that they face a "watershed" after the Lawrence report, and today's publication of a report by the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, David O'Dowd, criticising police forces across the country for failing to improve race relations.

"We are now at a watershed in police and community relations," Mr Straw will say. "This is the time for a permanent and irrevocable change."

It appears increasingly unlikely that the Government will be prepared to implement all 70 of the recommendations in the Lawrence report. There is deep anxiety about the idea of retrying suspects who have been found not guilty, and there is scepticism about the suggestion that privately expressed racist views could be made a criminal offence.

Hague threatens to expel party big guns

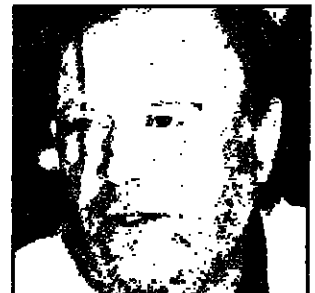
BY COLIN BROWN

WILLIAM HAGUE threatened Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine last night with expulsion from the Conservative Party if they support pro-euro rebel candidates in forthcoming European elections.

The attempt by the Tory leader to force the two former cabinet ministers into line came after two former Conservative MEPs announced plans to run a list of pro-euro candidates against official Tory candidates in June.

The threat to expel two of the major players remaining on the Tory benches exposed tensions that are threatening to tear the party apart.

But Mr Hague's warning could not have been more explicit. "Let me make this very clear: I expect all Conservative MPs without exception to campaign for official candidates in



Clarke: Euro rebel poses threat to party leadership

the coming European elections and any who do not will be out on their ear. Let's be clear about that."

His threat was an attempt to stop speculation about a breakaway party or a fresh challenge to his leadership after weekend disclosures that Mr Heseltine had been briefed by the Chancellor before Tony Blair's statement last Tuesday signalling Britain's determination to pre-

pare for entry to the euro after a referendum.

Mr Heseltine had planned to lie low until after the European elections, but the strength of the Prime Minister's support for the euro forced him into the open, talking for the first time about an "alignment" with the Government in support of Britain's entry. One Eurosceptic Tory MP said: "They are not likely to be mad enough to openly campaign for candidates who are not official Tory candidates, but this is to show they have to toe the line."

Mr Blair today reinforces his belief that the euro would bring stability to Europe in an interview for *La Repubblica* newspaper before flying to Italy tomorrow to address a meeting of European socialist parties where he will call for "new radicalism" in Europe.

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Eldorado for the BBC as the world pays a fortune to watch its flops

BY RHYNS WILLIAMS
AND DAVID LISTER

IN BRITAIN they were among the biggest flops in television history. Names such as *Eldorado* and *Rhodes*; shows made on budgets that dwarfed their viewing figures.

But for TV audiences around the world these are the *crème de la crème*. In Poland they cancel social engagements for *Eldorado*'s sun, sex and sangria. In Latvia the ultimate TV dinner viewing is *Seaforth*, which the BBC axed after one series, and which took such a critical battering its star left the country to join an American cult.

Yesterday in Brighton, on the south coast, programme negotiators from around the world came to view the flops and fill the BBC's coffers by buying them. Certainly, they were also after the home-grown successes, from *Teletubbies* (the biggest seller of all time) through the corporation's array of natural history programmes to the evergreen *Dr Who* and *Fawlty Towers*.

But for buyers from markets as disparate as Romania and Mauritius, the best buy remains a BBC "turkey". It is ironic, as the very programmes that are exciting buyers were among those cited by the award-winning Kenneth Trodd (the late Dennis Potter's producer) when he criticised the BBC for decisions taken by "uncreative people whose talent is keeping a shaky grip on stationery supplies".

In Latvia they beg to differ. National tastes are difficult to predict. Who could have guessed, until they stampeded towards the viewing booths, that the Benelux nations have been consistently amused by *Terry and June* or that the Americans love *Are You Being Served?* (it has had periods of being shown nightly) and that Delia Smith is lionised in Africa?

Among the "turkeys", *Seaforth* was BBC Worldwide's bestseller in 1994, joined in the top 10 that year by *A Year in Provence* and *Trainer*. The failed soap *Eldorado* is more popular in Russia than *Baywatch*. All these programmes continue to do brisk trade.

During the four-day event at the Brighton Conference Centre, the BBC's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, is showcasing more than 1,500 hours of programming drawn from across its output - comic offerings such as *Goodness Gracious Me* and *The League of Gentlemen*, popular dramas *Holby City* and *Jonathan Creek*, as well as children's programmes, documentaries and natural history

HOW TO SELL A TURKEY TO AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE

	RHODES	ELDORADO	A YEAR IN PROVENCE	TRAINER	SEAFORTH
WHAT IS IT?	The dramatised story of Cecil Rhodes and the founding of Rhodesia. The eight-part serial followed his departure from England to the diamond rush as an 18-year-old through the next 25 years, in which he became one of the world's wealthiest men and had a country named after him.	Published as 'sun, sea, sex and sangria' the makers of <i>Eastenders</i> tried to repeat their success with a soap opera set in southern Spain. It proved a misguided effort to cheer up recession-hit Britain with the lives of rich, unlikable, tax-avoiding ex-pats.	British couple set up home in Provence. Based on the bestselling Peter Mayle novel, in fact Mayle and his wife had to leave their home after viewers took the story of genial hospitality too literally and descended on the Provence farmhouse.	Racecourse soap opera. The lives and loves of owners, trainers and jockeys. It was a formula that worked for Dick Francis. But the bookies' favourite, the BBC drama department, managed to lose its shirt on this.	Set in and after World War Two, it followed the rags to riches story of roguish property developer. The 1940s family saga was dubbed 'the Forsyte Saga of the Nineties' but didn't have the Forsytes' staying power. It was axed after just one series.
WHO ARE THE STARS	Martin Shaw. He chose this role to make people associate him with something other than <i>The Professionals</i> , the cop show in which he starred in the Seventies. Never plan your career that way. Virtually every review mentioned <i>The Professionals</i> , which proved much the more successful career choice.	Actors Jesse Birdsall, Sandra Sahl, Polly Perkins and Leslie Udwin were not household names. And they were to have only a year to try to become household names.	John Thaw and Lindsay Anderson. A heavyweight coupling, they had both performed at the National Theatre as well as on TV. The Sweeney and Morse for him, GBH for her. Their French leave was a career low for both.	Mark Greenstreet as the trainer was joined by David McCallum, Susannah York and Nigel Davenport. A reliable British cast with a redoubtable track record. But the stars complained of weak storylines and Susannah York demanded changes to her character.	Linus Roache. This excellent Royal Shakespeare Company actor, and son of William Roache (Coronation Street's Ken Barlow) showed the most dramatic reaction to the trauma of a flop. After <i>Seaforth</i> he joined an American cult for 18 months.
WHAT UK CRITICS SAID	Sunday Mirror said: "It took 10 years to make and now every episode seems to last a decade."	The Guardian's Nancy Banks-Smith commented: "Eldorado goes straight for the young, drunk vote with a directness that leaves you winded."	The Daily Mail wondered: "Did the production team get through the entire series without seeing what has since become clear to us all - that they had made one of the most calamitously terrible British TV series of all time?"	"The Irish head stable lad can sing Jailhouse Rock. And sneering badgie Hugo is riding Yvonne in the 2 o'clock (am)... Perhaps they should rename it Learner. Better still, <i>Slow Learner</i> ," was the Mirror's verdict.	The most telling criticism came from its star. Linus Roache said the 10-part drama "had four good hours in it."
THE BIGGEST FANS	Neither in Rhodes, where the BBC might have expected the odd mistaken identity sale, nor in Zimbabwe, where it could be deemed politically incorrect. But it has gone down well in South Africa, Australia and Canada.	So popular in Russia, that in parts of the country it's bigger than <i>Baywatch</i> . It has also done well in Poland. The big surprise is its popularity in Mauritius, where they have enough genuine sun, sand and sex to be able to spot a fake.	The BBC admit this has not done well in France. Perhaps they did not know whether to file it under drama or comedy. But the farther away from Provence you get the better it does. Big in Australia and Canada.	Could be expected to do well in places where horse racing is big, such as Hong Kong, Dubai and South Africa. But maybe they know too much about the real thing there as <i>Trainer</i> 's biggest success is in Poland - not on the Jockey Club circuit.	In Latvia they talk of little else. Yes, Latvia is on the <i>Seaforth</i> hit list with - where else - Romania. When the stresses of poverty and political change make you yearn for light relief, buy a BBC drama flop.
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT?	The scenery and locations are good, and with £10m spent on making this drama, they were the genuine locations. And perhaps a rare celebration of a white colonist appealed to certain politically incorrect elements among the South African and Canadian viewers.	Popular in Russia because of its Chekhovian themes, unremarked upon by British critics. Families far away from home long to make the journey once again and was lyrical about it over drink and unfulfilled relationships. The Russians also like the fact that it is a "complete soap opera", which actually finishes, says the BBC. Now there's a good cultural reason for axing shows.	The setting is the selling point. The beauty of rural southern France is popular around the world, says the Beeb. Except it seems in Britain, or come to that France. In both places the series got the thumbs down.	Viewed from Poland, racing in Britain must seem a glamorous world of melodrama, sex and sudden death. The Berkshire hills were alive with affairs, suicide, and date rape of a woman jockey. The Poles should try a wet afternoon at Plumpton.	Though Germany's minister of culture might accuse us of being obsessed with the war, they seem to be much more obsessed in eastern Europe. The war era setting is a big selling point for this drama, as is the rags to riches story.

films. About the only series not on sale will be *One Man and His Dog*, something of a cult in Japan and guaranteed similar status over here now that the corporation has decided to pull it from the BBC's schedule.

Programmes featuring strong dialects are more difficult to market around the world. Robert Carlyle's Edinburgh drugs drama serial *Looking After JoJo* needed subtitles when it was shown in Australia (the BBC's most lucrative market in terms of sales per head), while *EastEnders*' first sortie into the US 10 years ago was accompanied by a viewers' guide to cockney rhyming slang.

Anything with a strong sexual story-line or content fares poorly in the Middle East. The Michael Dobbs political drama *House of Cards* was turned down by many countries in the region as it featured political corruption and adultery, as was a natural history programme called *Sexual Encounters of a Floral Kind*.

The *Green Man*, which starred Albert Finney as a drunken owner of a haunted inn, was similarly cold shouldered in China, where ghosts are taboo - as, interestingly, are actors dressed in white, and snakes.

Although comedy works to varying degrees across the

globe (*Blackadder*, *Allo 'Allo* and *Absolutely Fabulous* are selling well in Eastern Europe), costume drama and natural history are universally popular.

Pride and Prejudice is the corporation's second bestselling programme of all time, while natural history and science account for five out of the top 10.

TOP TEN ALL-TIME BESTSELLERS

Teletubbies (children's): 120 countries
Pride and Prejudice (drama): 80 countries
Doctor Who (drama): 74 countries
Flight of the Condor (nat hist): 73 countries
The Living Planet (nat hist): 70 countries
Six Wives of Henry VIII (drama): 64 countries
Human Body (science): 60 countries
Life of Birds (nat hist): 60 countries
Fawcett Towers (light ent): 60 countries
Life in the Freezer (nat hist): 55 countries

In cases where programmes in their original form relate too closely to Britain, it is often more appropriate to sell the format. *That's Life* has been sold to Germany, *Pets Win Prizes* to Scandinavia and, most celebrated of all, *One Foot in the Grave* to the US, where Victor Meldrew's sour curmudgeon was transformed into something altogether more cuddly by Bill Cosby.

The BBC Showcase is both a throwback to the sort of cultural imperialism that once permeated its Empire Service and a nod ahead to a future in which the corporation must find alternative sources of income to the licence fee. Al-

though the BBC has been granted licence fee increases above inflation to fund its move into digital technology, it is still under financial pressure, as the costs of sports and film rights, and the talent, spiral.

Hence the significance of fund-raising exercises such as the Showcase. It is central to the corporation's sales and distribution activity, which currently generates about £130m a year. BBC Worldwide has pledged to quadruple its cash flow to the BBC over the course of the current charter period.

Rupert Gavin, chief executive of BBC Worldwide, says: "The Showcase is critical be-

cause of the revenue, but also what it does for the BBC brand. The television programmes are the powerhouse that translate the BBC's values across other forms - books, magazines and records."

The most successful example of this by a long way has been the *Teletubbies*, now watched again and again in 120 countries. Far from being a barrier to global adoption, Tinky Winky, Dipsy, La La and Po's collective inability to say much beyond "eh oh" has proved a boon. The only significant alteration has been the employment of an Asian baby to become the face in the sun in the Far East.



Sheena McDonald: Critically ill in hospital

Broadcaster fights for life after crash

THE BROADCASTER Sheena McDonald was lying critically injured in hospital last night after being hit by a police van. Her partner, Allan Little, the BBC's Moscow correspondent, made an overnight dash from Russia to be with Ms McDonald, 44, and her family in the intensive care

BY CAHAL MILMO

unit of a central London hospital.

The 39-year-old journalist returned home within hours of hearing of the accident on Friday night in Islington, north London, which left Ms McDonald with serious head injuries.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, a former boyfriend of Ms McDonald, was among those awaiting news on her progress as doctors at the University College Hospital in Euston said her condition remained grave.

A hospital spokesman said: "Ms McDonald remains stable but, given the nature of her injuries, critically ill. Her family have been with her all day and remain at her bedside."

Despite the seriousness of her condition, it is understood that there are no immediate plans for the political reporter - a presenter of *Channel 4 News*, *The World This Week* and BBC's *On The Record* - to undergo surgery.

Mr Little made the dash to London within hours of hearing of the accident. He and Ms McDonald have been together for four years.

A Channel 4 spokesman said: "He left immediately he heard and has been at the hospital since earlier today. Sheena's family, including Allan, continue to be with her." Mr Brown, who was romantically linked with Ms McDonald while they were

both at Edinburgh University in the 1970s, and later in 1994, asked to be kept informed of her condition.

The Chancellor, spending the weekend in Scotland with his fiancée, Sarah Macaulay, remains a close friend of the broadcaster.

Reports emerged in 1994 that the pair were again seeing each other before Mr Brown started his relationship with Ms Macaulay, a director of a public relations company, that year.

Newsreader Alex Thomson, who read the *Channel 4 News* on Saturday night, thanked viewers who had called in with good wishes for the presenter. The Channel 4 presenter, who chaired the judging panel for the Orange Fiction prize last year, was knocked down at 11.47pm on Friday in St John's Street, Islington.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "As is routine in accidents involving police vehicles, the driver is suspended from driving duties pending a full investigation."

The police van, which had its blue lights flashing and siren on, was answering an emergency call to a fight on nearby Holloway Road.

Scotland Yard said that the driver, a 27-year-old police constable and a 30-year-old colleague, who was a passenger, escaped injury but are suffering shock.

Both are based at Islington police station.

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Lawrence aftermath: Racists are only a small, but loud, minority within the British system, says victim's mother

'We may not get justice for Stephen'

THE MOTHER of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager murdered by a racist gang, said yesterday that she held out little hope of obtaining justice for her son unless fresh evidence emerged.

Appearing on ITV's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme with her husband, Neville, Doreen Lawrence said that the media attention directed towards the five main suspects would make any future trial difficult.

"Unless some new evidence has come forward, we will never ever get that justice," she said. "But I think what has happened is that they [the suspects] can no longer hide behind their doors [so that] nobody knows who they are."

She dismissed the view that people in Britain were generally racist, but called for the 70 recommendations of last week's Lawrence report to be fully implemented.

"There's only a small minority within the British system who you could say is racist," said Mrs Lawrence. "But it seems as if those racists have a louder voice at the moment. They're the ones that seem to be shouting loudest and who seem to be coming forward."

The new report should not be treated the same way as the Scarman report of the early Eighties which, she said, contained recommendations that were never implemented.

"This time I do not just want lip-service paid to the report, I want to see some action taken," she said.

BY JOHN DAVISON

Mr Lawrence agreed that time-limits should be imposed on the police and other institutions to make sure that the latest recommendations were carried forward.

"I would like the recommendations to be monitored so that we can see exactly what's happening," he said.

Say we give the Met two or three months to do certain things and then go and look to see if it's happening - and if it's not happening, make sure it does."

He said that his family was considering what action to take in the wake of the Lawrence report, which criticised the police's bungling and "institutional racism". The officers included suing the police, but he would not confirm whether a decision on this had been taken.

Speaking about the accuracy of the report in addressing the way the family had been treated by the police, Mr Lawrence gave it a guarded welcome.

He said: "It's gone a little way into some of the things that we felt in the early days of the inquiry - which was that when the officers came to my house, I got the impression that they thought we were involved in the murder of our own child. They came to the house looking for information, instead of coming to give us information."

On the same programme Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, refused to accept that his department bore any responsibility for the mistaken inclusion in the appendix to the Lawrence report of details identifying some of the people who had given information to police investigating Stephen's murder.

Mr Boateng also denied he had been behind the leaking of details from the report to the press last weekend, and rejected calls for the resignation of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon.

"We are not in the business of symbols, of ritual sacrifice. We are in the business of strategy, of making a real change, root-and-branch reform. We don't believe as a government you achieve that by lopping off the head of an institution."

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responsibility for the mistaken inclusion in the appendix to the Lawrence report of details identifying some of the people who had given information to police investigating Stephen's murder.

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Doreen Lawrence and her husband Neville on the Jonathan Dimbleby programme yesterday

John Voos

Suspect's lawyer defends police

A LAWYER for one of the prime suspects in the murder of Stephen Lawrence says Sir William Macpherson's inquiry bordered on a show trial, and that the Metropolitan Police have been unfairly accused of institutional racism.

Michael Holmes, the solicitor for Gary Dobson, also reveals that a senior police officer investigating the crime repeatedly begged Dobson to become a prosecution witness against the other four suspects.

Mr Holmes says in an interview in today's edition of *The Lawyer* newspaper that the offer was rejected. Dobson

maintained that he and the other four were all innocent. "I thought it showed a measure of desperation. Coming from an officer of that seniority in this case I found that amazing," said Mr Holmes.

Detective Superintendent William Melish, the officer concerned, had approached him "time and time again," he said. The offer was that if he could assure the police that Dobson had not carried or used a knife on the night of the murder, and he would testify against the other suspects, then he could

become a prosecution witness. Mr Holmes said he had personally received four death threats because of his involvement in the case, and was struck by the "hostile feeling" towards himself and his client when they appeared before the Macpherson hearings. "I felt intimidated in the way we were treated, and I am not an easy person to intimidate," he said.

Asked whether he thought the inquiry had bordered on a show trial, he replied: "Yes, I think it probably did."

All of the five tried to avoid appearing before the inquiry by seeking a court order, but this

was turned down. Once before the hearing, Dobson remained silent. Asked why, Mr Holmes replied that Dobson and the others lacked "educational advantages" and would have had difficulty expressing themselves fully.

He thought Dobson would be "very probably deeply ashamed" by the racist comments he expressed on a convert police surveillance tape.

"I think why they have remained silent since is... because every time they seek to put their heads above the parapet they get shot at. Can you blame them for keeping

their heads down?" he said. Mr Holmes also spoke of the suffering of Dobson's parents over having their son labelled a murderer. "They are a thoroughly nice couple who are shell-shocked by what has happened to them. I've never heard them express a racist view over the many hours I've spent with them. They say, 'When will it ever end?' And I fear not for a long time yet."

He said he did not agree with the Lawrence report finding that the police were institutionally racist. "The only prejudice I understand police to have is against criminals."

Important news for Norwich and Peterborough customers.

Important News for Borrowers

The rate of interest for existing mortgage customers (on appropriate cases) the basic rate will decrease by 0.5% with effect from 1st March 1999. The Society's new standard variable base rate is now 6.70%. Mortgage offers issued on or after 22nd February 1999 already refer to this new rate.

The new rate continues to reflect our commitment to mutually, and the benefits this brings to customers. Fixed rate mortgages will not be affected during the contractual fixed rate period. There will also be no change to the interest rates for existing Secured Personal Loans regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

In cases where mortgage interest rate changes are subject to notice, the decrease will take place after the appropriate notice period which will commence on 1st March 1999. For customers participating in the Society's annual review procedure, this interest rate change will be taken into account when calculating new monthly payments at the next review in early 2000 or, in appropriate cases, the anniversary of the mortgage.

New Rates for Savers

With effect from 1st March 1999

PREVIOUS	NEW
Gross Rate	Gross Rate
Special 85	
Annual interest option	
£10,000 - £24,999	4.25
£25,000 - £49,999	4.50
£50,000 - £74,999	4.75
£75,000 - £99,999	5.00
£100,000 and over	5.25
Monthly interest option	
£10,000 - £24,999	4.25
£25,000 - £49,999	4.50
£50,000 - £74,999	4.75
£75,000 - £99,999	5.00
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£100,000 and over	5.25

PREVIOUS

Gross Rate Net AER Gross Rate Net AER

TESSA Elite*

Interest paid annually

£100,000 and over

Interest paid annually

£1 and over

Interest paid annually

£100,000 and over

Interest paid annually

£1 and over

Interest paid annually

£100,000 and over

Interest paid annually

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Interest paid annually

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Interest paid annually

£100,000 and over

Interest paid annually

£1 and over

Interest paid annually

PREVIOUS

Gross Rate Net AER Gross Rate Net AER

Deposits (Share/Personal)*

Interest paid half-yearly

£100,000 and over

Interest paid half-yearly

£2,500 and over

Interest paid half-yearly

£2,500 and over

Interest paid half-yearly

£2,500 and over

Interest paid half-yearly

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Interest paid half-yearly

Traffic stops for troubled toad

Monica roadshow rolls into Britain

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

SHE GOT through the last months of the scandal that bore her name by knitting scarves for her friends. She wants to apologise to the American people. She knows how Ken Starr found out about the cigar. She thinks that Mr Clinton is deeply regretful too - he regrets that he got caught.

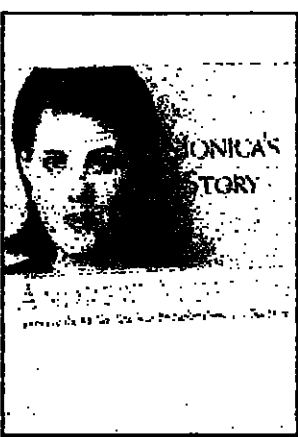
So reveals Monica Lewinsky, the young woman who showed a thong and almost brought down a presidency, in an interview with ABC TV's Barbara Walters, to be broadcast in the US on Wednesday. The programme will run for two hours and ABC expects massive ratings - advertisers will have to pay \$800,000 for 30-second slots, five times the normal rate.

The Walters face-to-face, however, will be just the beginning of a marketing-of-Monica blitz that will span the globe. With nerve-centres in New York and London, it will encompass a second television interview with Channel 4's Jon Snow, a book, *Monica's Story*, written by Andrew Morton, the biographer of the late Diana, Princess of Wales - also to be published in both cities this week, assorted print interviews, as well as myriad international deals for broadcast and book serialisation rights.

By the end of this week, the ex-intern who first breached the sanctum of the Oval Office over three years ago, will be inside living-rooms from Germany to Argentina, Israel to Japan. With all of us - or all of us who can still summon the interest -



Andrew Morton is now telling 'Monica's Story'



Monica will share the emotional journey she took when she fell in love with the leader of the free world and later fell into the cross-hairs of special prosecutor Starr.

How many truly care is another question. Judging by ABC's advertising rates - only slightly less than those charged during the Oscar show - and the \$600,000 (£400,000) paid by Channel 4 to Ms Lewinsky for its interview, there are enough people who believe the public's appetite for all Monica, all of the time, is still not dented.

In the US, however, there are grounds to be sceptical. A poll in this weekend's *New York Post* suggested that only 7 per cent of Americans would buy the book, or are remotely interested. Perhaps for that reason, Monica's promotional role in the US will be fairly limited. According to Lynn Goldberg, her literary agent, in the US "our strategy is distance and dignity". One more sit-down interview has been scheduled

story. Britain will see more of Monica in March than any other country on the globe. Plans have been laid for a tour later this month of about 12 cities. She will visit bookshops, television stations and radio studios. *The Mirror* has bought the rights to the book - to be published in London on Friday by Michael O'Mara Books. *The Daily Telegraph* is banking on an interview. *Marie Claire* magazine already has exclusive Monica photographs.

Abroad, those that have paid for serialisation rights on the book include *Paris Match*, *New Age* in Australia, *Corriere della Sera* in Italy and the *Bild* newspaper in Germany. Channel 4 has sold rights to show the Jon Snow interview to 25 countries so far. Reportedly some 75 per cent of money earned through such foreign deals will be paid by Channel 4 to Ms Lewinsky.



Monica Lewinsky giving a £400,000 interview to the Channel 4 news presenter Jon Snow

Channel 4

IN BRIEF

Lockerbie deadline 'was spin'

REPORTS THAT Britain and America had given Libya a 30-day deadline to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing case were denied yesterday. Dr Jim Swire, spokesman for the British families, had initially said that the deadline was "very unhelpful". He said, yesterday, that he now believed that claims of such a deadline were media spin from New York.

Today is T time for motorists

A NEW era for motorists began at midnight with T-registration number-plates. This is the first step in overhauling the traditional car registration system, which switches to a continental-style regional identification system by 2001. The initial indicates the time of purchase, and will change every six months rather than annually.

Man held in murder inquiry

A MAN aged 21 was arrested yesterday by police investigating the death of 15-year-old Rachel Glenn whose body was found in a lake at Loughborough, Leicestershire, on Saturday. A post-mortem examination showed that Rachel, who had been missing since Wednesday, died of drowning but also suffered head injuries.

Lottery jackpot rolls over

NO TICKETS matched all six numbers in Saturday's National Lottery draw, so Wednesday's jackpot will be an estimated £13 million. The numbers were 1, 13, 7, 15, 38, 43.

DONALD MACINTYRE



Like a matinee idol, returning by demand, David Owen is back

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

informative:

With effect from 15 March 1999 the following interest rates will apply:

Mortgage		
	Previous Rate	New Rate
All loan amounts	6.99% p.a.	6.50% p.a.

Equity Release Loan		
	Previous Rate	New Rate
All loan amounts	6.99% p.a.	6.50% p.a.

first direct

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:

	Previous Rate	New Rate
All loan amounts	6.99% p.a.	6.50% p.a.

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:

	Previous Rate	New Rate
All loan amounts	8.99% p.a.	8.50% p.a.

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc

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SAGA
New to the scene

Reinforced safety cell to protect passengers.



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Whatever the wind has to throw at it, the Citroën Saxo is fully equipped to take the force of the blows. Its internal structure is engineered to remain rigid in the event of an accident, whatever the source of the impact. Even the floor is reinforced. The over-engineering of steel works in conjunction with a side-impact protection system which ensures that the doors deform progressively. This diverts force away from the cabin space, reducing the chances of injury to the occupants. In addition, crumple zones front and rear allow the body

work to collapse in a pre-programmed sequence. Inside, meanwhile, front seat belt pre-tensioners instantaneously rewind up to 10cm of slack, ensuring that you stop well short of the dashboard with driver and passenger airbags providing added security. We've even taken steps to reduce the impact to your bank account. The Saxo is available from £6,995* on the road, and comes complete with one year's free insurance. For more information on the Saxo's many strong points, call 0800 252 262. Or drop in on your local Citroën dealer.



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12 YRS FREE INSURANCE AVAILABLE ON ALL MODELS EXCEPT SPARE LIMITED EDITION (1 YR). INSURANCE SUBJECT TO MANUFACTURER'S AND INSURER'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS. AGE RESTRICTIONS APPLY. 17-75 FOR ALL MODELS EXCEPT VTR (21-75) AND VTS (26-75). OFFER APPLIES TO NEW CARS ORDERED AND REGISTERED BETWEEN 1.2.99 AND 31.3.99. ALTERNATIVE OFFERS APPLY TO NORTHERN IRELAND. CAR SHOWN, SAXO 1.8i VTR, £10,875 ON THE ROAD (EXCLUDING OPTIONAL METALLIC PAINT, £225). *PASSENGER AIRBAG OPTIONAL EXTRA (£195). £6,995 ON THE ROAD PRICE FOR LIMITED EDITION SAXO SPARE. ON THE ROAD PRICES INCLUDE 88% FOR DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES, 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE AND 62% GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. LIMITED EDITION MODELS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

15,000 teachers jobless as schools cry out for staff

By BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

MORE THAN 15,000 jobless teachers are looking for work in schools, despite an acute shortage of classroom staff. Academics and teachers' leaders are calling for more action to attract former staff, saying Britain is wasting talent.

They accused heads of ageism and said schools were reluctant to pay for experienced staff, preferring cheap younger newcomers.

Last year the Government recruited 14,377 people into secondary schools, nearly 5,000 below their target. Primary school recruitment matched the Government's target of 11,500. But the Employment Service says 15,855 unemployed people are claiming the jobseeker's allowance, seeking work as teachers.

Estimates suggest there are as many as 400,000 qualified teachers who have left the profession in recent years.

Yesterday Professor Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Liverpool University, agreed schools were more likely to appoint young, inexperienced staff because they were cheaper.

Professor Smithers, who is completing a study on the supply of teachers, added: "I have been contacted by a lot of people who want to teach but who cannot get work. Some have good qualifications in subjects such as physics, maths and chemistry; all areas short of teachers."

Ministers are already encouraging people to choose teaching as a second career, as part of a £130m package of measures to tackle the shortfall. They also announced "golden hellos" worth £5,000 for teachers of maths and science.

Ministers hope their Green Paper on the future of teaching will tempt people into the classroom with salaries of up to



Bob Stonehouse, a highly qualified and experienced experimental chemist, found he was too old at 50 to teach science

Keith Dobney

£40,000 a year. A new round of cinema adverts, replacing last year's "Nobody Forgets a Good Teacher" campaign, was screened for the first time last month.

A spokesman for the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) said: "An increasing number of teachers are also on temporary or short-term contracts. ATL has argued for a long time that the best and most experienced teachers ought to be in the classroom."

Steve Jackson, chairman of

the pressure group the Association of Teachers Against Ageism, said teachers as young as 31 were being refused work. He said: "There is a waste of resources on a terrific scale."

Mr Jackson, a 48-year-old biology teacher, added: "Some people have been made redundant and retrained, others have given up jobs, but it's very difficult to find work, even with a shortage of applicants."

Bob Stonehouse, 50, an experimental chemist made redundant after 22 years with

Glaxo, took a post-graduate certificate of education at the London University Institute of Education in 1997 because there was said to be a severe shortage of science teachers.

He applied for dozens of jobs, but was always beaten by younger candidates. The best he has been able to find has been supply cover and one short-term contract last summer.

He said: "The business of science teacher shortages is a myth, because people like me

have left good jobs, or turned jobs down to get into teaching, only to find they are unemployable."

"I thought my experience would be valued. But it has become a millstone around my neck."

"I began to realise that the job was always going to the youngest candidates and I do not think it is a coincidence. They are cheaper to employ."

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "Most

schools appoint the best person for the job. Some people may appear good on paper but they don't seem to be able to get the message across."

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said rules had been changed to allow schools to recruit the full cost of employing experienced teachers from local authorities.

He said that since 1984 people returning to teaching had made up more than half of new recruits to schools.

Cellnet flaw gives thieves free calls

FRAUDSTERS ARE exploiting glaring weaknesses in the Cellnet mobile phone network to use stolen credit card details to "top up" prepaid handsets - a flaw that the company is only slowly trying to repair.

The fraud does not come to light unless the owner of the stolen details notices the unusual transactions on their card account and complains. The fraudster is guaranteed at least a month between topping up the phone and the fraud being detected. Once alerted, Cellnet can only prevent such phones from making calls, but not from receiving them. It has no way of locating the phone's user, so that passing details of the fraud on to the police is effectively useless.

Cellnet admitted to *The Independent* that the flaws exist but said it is introducing new security measures to try to reduce them "in the next couple of months".

But it is understood to be facing a growing number of fraudulent uses of its prepaid phones, launched only last July. At least 100 false claims have been made - though there may be many hundreds more. If somebody owns a Cellnet prepaid phone, they would be less likely to notice a fraudulent charge on their account.

Among those who did notice the fraud is Steve Pardoe, a company director in an electronics firm based in Cheshire, whose credit card was used fraudulently to top up a Cellnet prepaid phone. He said: "I found a charge of £50 on my credit card bill against Cellnet in Slough. When I called to query it, I was told it was for telecoms services. I explained that I didn't have a Cellnet phone, and they said it would be somebody 'topping up' a prepaid phone." The money was refunded against his card.

Prepaid mobile phones have proved enormously popular with buyers. The four networks - Cellnet, Vodafone, Orange

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

and One2One - all offer them, and in total have sold almost three million. The advantage to buyers is the prepaid phones do not require a contract - meaning that users avoid costly lock-in clauses, which proved unpopular with many of the early contracts. Instead, the customer buys the phone, usually for about £100, with a certain number of prepaid airtime minutes, which can be used immediately. Once these have gone, the owner can "buy" new minutes with a credit card from a shop or, on some networks, over the phone.

But while the other networks have put safeguards, such as name and address checks, in place, Cellnet has streamlined its system so far that no human intervention is required, and users can top up their phones using only the keypad. This means no basic checks are made.

A Cellnet spokesman said: "There is a small level of fraud occurring with top-up phones. But we feel that with these phones we have a marriage between a high level of security and ease of use for the customer. We understand that when somebody finds that their card has been wrongly used they can be reimbursed." The security measures to be introduced are the result of new technologies that were not available to Cellnet when the handsets were launched.

Mr Pardoe has complained to the telecoms watchdog, Ofcom. He said: "I think Cellnet has decided that the downside to it is very small. Effectively, the airtime doesn't cost it anything to provide; so when it has to repay the money to the credit card company, there's no real loss of a physical object. Cellnet has had a free loan. The people who lose out are those whose credit card details are stolen and charged."

THE INDEPENDENT

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'Pay us in euros' say car workers

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

well as obliging them to carry out their duties solely in the public interest.

Ministers stress that nearly all councillors are honest and hardworking, but they are keen to remove the minority whose corruption tarnishes the reputation of the rest. Labour councils have been dogged for decades by allegations of corruption and malpractice, with Doncaster, Liverpool, Glasgow and Monklands investigated by both police and party officials.

their status. We want the public to see councillors helping their communities, not themselves."

The standards committees, which will have some independent members, will draw up local codes based on a national model. They will be backed by more powerful regional standards boards, which will be fully independent and mirror theNeill Committee on Standards in Public Life set up to stamp out sleaze in Parliament.

The regional boards will have wide-ranging powers to suspend councillors from office for a year after an investigation into their case. The worst offenders could be disqualified for up to five years.

Council whistleblowers and members of the public will be able to refer allegations to the board, which will order an inquiry if it deems the claims "non-trivial". The boards, staffed by local government

experts, will be the centrepiece of the new drive to increase public confidence in local councils, though it is stressed that they would be used only for serious allegations.

Tony Blair has long been in favour of directly elected mayors and is keen to see them installed across the country to boost civic pride and increase interest in local democracy.

Many councillors of all three main parties still balk at the idea of powerful executive mayors, but they will have no choice but to hold a ballot if 5 per cent of residents back the move. Even if there is no petition, ministers will be able to insist on a referendum if they judge the council has not been making sufficient efforts to modernise its structures. "Local government is stuck with a system that was devised for the 1800s not the 21st century. We're determined to change it," the source said.

THE BEANO COMIC

NO. 1015 - 1938
WEDNESDAY

FREE INSIDE

WHOOPEE MASK

'The Beano' of July 1938, with the Whoopee mask given away free to readers

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

STAFF AT Vauxhall Motors' two big car plants want to become the first important group of British employees to be paid in euros amid evidence of increasing interest elsewhere in the new currency.

Representatives of more than 9,000 workers at the Luton and Ellesmere Port plants have urged union officials to investigate the possibility of wages being paid in euros so they can take advantage of the lower interest rates on the Continent. *The Independent* understands. The base rate in Europe stands at 3 per cent, compared with 5.5 per cent here.

In particular, Vauxhall workers want easier access to low mortgage rates and have been advised they would probably need bank accounts in euros. They are also keen to see more "transparency" between their pay rates and the higher earnings of German workers, who are continually lauded for their higher productivity.

Vauxhall management and senior union leaders have expressed enthusiasm for the new currency. Ken Jackson, leader of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said his research department was investigating the practicalities of switching to the new currency. He said: "The euro will benefit working people throughout the UK and it is already clear many of them are preparing themselves for UK entry because they believe it is in their best interests to do so."

Union officials have contacted Barclays Bank, which believes the arrangement is possible, although workers would be left open to exchange-rate fluctuations. Nevertheless, the bank calculates that a borrower could save £250 a month on a £100,000 loan by taking out a euro mortgage.

Nick Reilly, the chief executive at Vauxhall Motors, is thought to be sympathetic. He recently estimated Britain's insistence on sticking with sterling would cost his company £10m in transaction and hedging costs.

A COPY of the first edition of *The Beano*, priced at just two old pennies in 1938 – less than 1p – sold yesterday at auction for £6,200, the highest price paid for a comic in Britain.

BY ANDREW WOODCOCK

But the new owner, Oliver Driscoll, 25, from Matlock, Derbyshire, who grew up on the exploits of Dennis the Menace and Gnasher, said he had received excellent value for money.

"I've always been a big fan of *The Beano*, and a first edition is something I've long since had my eye on," he said.

The comic, dated 30 July 1938, is one of only six copies of

the first edition in existence, and its value was boosted enormously because it came with the only known surviving Whoopee mask, a cover-mountain that was given away free to readers.

The present-day editor of *The Beacon*, Euan Kerr, said: "In those days, a comic was a completely throwaway item and nobody would have thought of keeping them, which is why they are so rare."

The existence of this first edition came to light by pure

chance, he explained: "The chap who owned it happened to see an auctioneer on television talking about the value of first editions and realised that he had still got a copy in the loft."

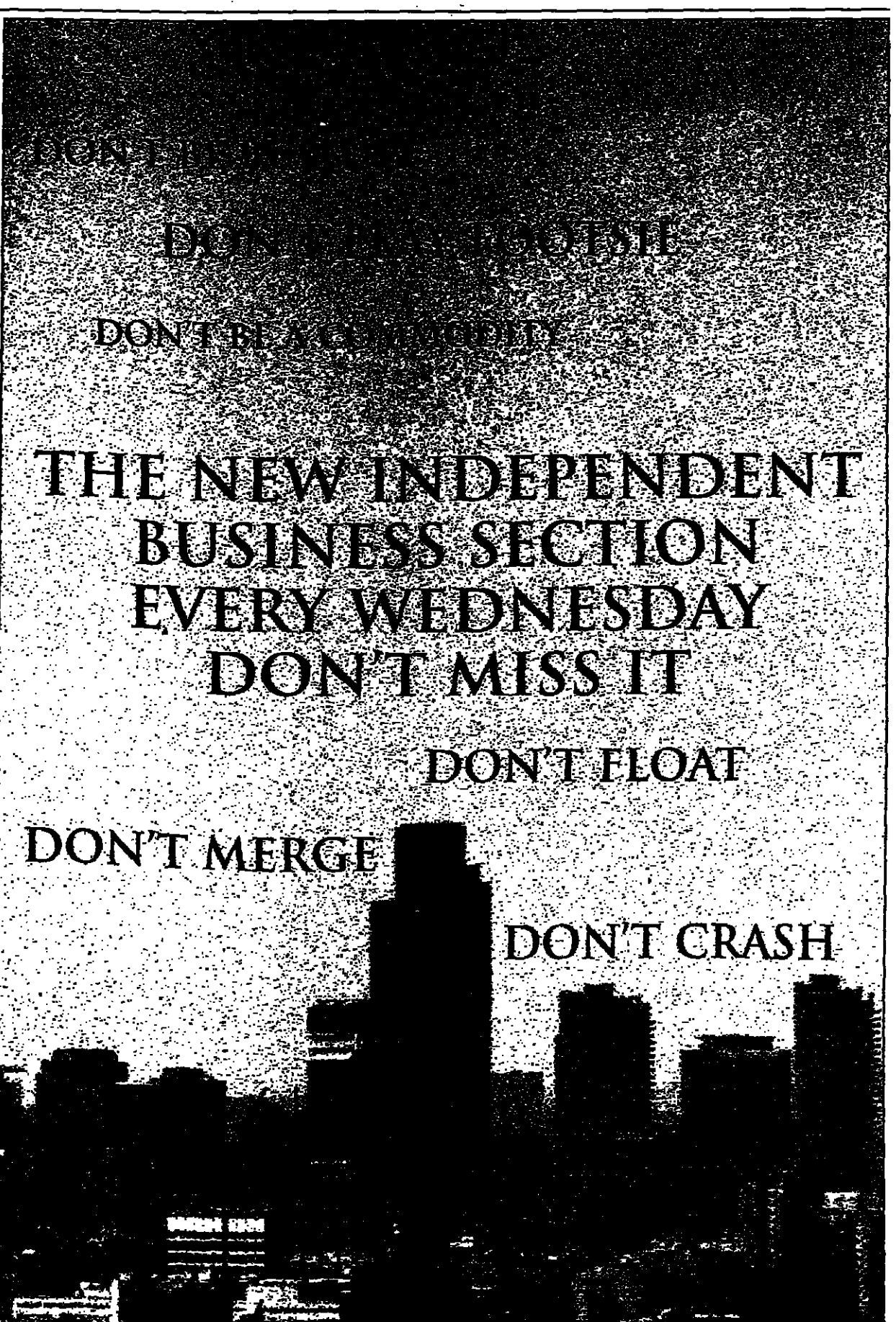
The first edition features Big Eggo the Ostrich, but includes none of the characters from *The Beano* of 1999. The only names familiar to modern-day readers will be those of

day readers will be those of Lord Snooty and his pals.

Few other comics would have the potential to fetch such a price, said Mr Kerr: "The Beano is so much a part of the fabric of British life."

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Ancient Britons left trail of secret Picassos

IT IS a visual language lost to us. Are they boundary signs? Are they religious warnings? Are they maps?

The intriguing abstract shapes of Britain's prehistoric rock art - rings and hollows, zigzags and arcs - are indecipherable now, and largely unknown to the public.

The Stone Age people who carved the designs on sandstone slabs and granite boulders left a large number of them across the country, with about 2,500 sites currently known.

And now a major effort is under way to catalogue the drawings, find more of them and learn how to conserve them. It is hoped also to bring them to the public's attention.

Britain cannot boast the wonderful prehistoric cave paintings of wild animals found at Lascaux and other sites in southern France and Spain. We have but a few representations of animals, such as the goats or deer carved on the face of what was an ancient rock

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

shelter at Goat's Crag in north Northumberland.

But we do have an extraordinary amount of mysterious, carved and scratched abstract shapes that would not look out of place in a late-period Picasso, and which clearly once held an important meaning.

"This stuff was created between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago by the first farming communities in Britain, and as far as we can see we've got something quite remarkable," said Professor Tim Darvill, head of archaeology at Bournemouth University.

"These are the people who built Stonehenge and Avebury - they also signposted their landscape in subtle ways by engraving symbols and images on to rocks."

With his colleague Professor Peter Ucko from London University's Institute of Archaeology, Professor Darvill is leading

a research project funded by English Heritage, which will eventually produce a catalogue raisonné of all Britain's rock art.

It will take a long time, perhaps five years, and be expensive - even the six-month pilot study, now under way, to explore what techniques to use will cost £80,000.

But the eventual objective is

to create a gazetteer of every design, which will be put on CD-ROM and made available to universities, schools, and the public. It is also hoped that computer analysis will allow the meaning of the designs to be understood.

There are about 30 abstract motifs commonly used, the most widely seen being the

"cupmark", a teacup-shaped hollow between two and three inches across that is "pecked" - chipped with another stone - into the rock.

Cupmarks may have been used to trap water, and could have represented the sun, moon or stars. The next most common design is the "ringmark", a spiral set of lines. Be-

tween them, these two motifs appear in 70 per cent of designs.

The rest are zigzags and chevron patterns, which some archaeologists think may be representations of a human trance.

"They come in different combinations and there seems to be a 'grammar' in the way they've been used," Professor

Darvill said. "We will analyse them on computer like you would an early script. My guess is that we will find a patterning, and I hope we get close to an understanding."

His own view is that the motifs are saying something about the landscapes in which they occur. "They seem to be about marking the landscape, per-

haps marking ownership, perhaps to mark what kind of things you're coming to."

"Perhaps they tell you what's going on in a valley - if it was a secret valley, a burial area. Maybe you're going into a grazing area, as if they were signposts to what's going on. 'Camp here!' That sort of thing."



Stone Age rock art at Dod Law, Northumberland. Researchers hope to uncover the meaning behind the abstract motifs

Ian Hewitt Collection

Hillsborough files 'doctored'

RELATIVES OF the 96 football fans who died in the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 have asked the Home Secretary to order a new public inquiry after allegations that statements by police officers at the football stadium were "sanitised".

An analysis on behalf of the families is said to show that changes were made by police lawyers to statements given at the time by the police. The Hillsborough Families Support Group said it has uncovered about 100 significant discrepancies.

After the disaster South Yorkshire Police suggested officers write down their recollections of what had happened at the stadium in Sheffield. These informal accounts have only recently been made public. When Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry into the disaster began, lawyers acting

BY PAUL LASHMAR

for the police used the recollections as the basis of the police officers' statements.

Phil Hammond, secretary of the support group, found some evidence that would have damaged the police position had been left out. For example, a sentence saying: "There seemed to be a total lack of contact with police control or at least a senior officer who could have informed us as to what action was required," was deleted from one constable's original account.

The Assistant Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Ian Daines, said yesterday the allegations of a cover-up were "ridiculous". "Every officer... was asked to write down their recollections. These weren't formal witness statements."

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Nigeria ends 15 years of military rule

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NIGERIA'S NASCENT democracy got off to a shaky start yesterday after the announcement that Olusegun Obasanjo had won the presidential election was clouded by claims of voting irregularities.

The declaration yesterday that Mr Obasanjo, a 63-year-old retired general, had won the race drew immediate claims of ballot-stuffing from his opponent, Olufemi Falae.

By last night, General Obasanjo had captured 61 per cent of the vote after 29 of Nigeria's 36 states and the federal capital had declared their results. Mr Falae disputed the results, which showed him more than 5 million votes behind, after 25 million ballot papers had been counted.

"If General Obasanjo won a free and fair election I would congratulate him but clearly this is not a free and fair election," Mr Falae said.

Western observers also reported voting malpractices in many areas though they mostly concluded they were insufficient to have significantly altered the result, which ends 15 years of military rule.

"There were some disparities noted by ourselves," said the former American president Jimmy Carter, who joined

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Abuja

ly leads an American delegation. "Some of the local officials apparently permitted exaggerated reports of voter participation and in some cases there were some ballots in the box that were not cast by voters."

The election was one of the final elements in a transition programme to democracy that began last October and has included local, gubernatorial and parliamentary polls. But the questions raised over the result puts a strain on efforts to lead Africa's most populous country away from military rule.

Foreign approval for the election is essential for Nigeria. The country is trying to regain world respect after years of human rights abuses and corruption and it desperately needs foreign financing after a collapse in world oil prices.

The transition programme is spearheaded by General Abdulsalam Abubakar. He became head of state after the death last June of General Sani Abacha, a tyrannical dictator who executed his opponents and pocketed the nation's oil wealth. Under General Abubakar's plan, President

Obasanjo will take the reins on 29 May.

The views of election observers are unlikely to halt the progress of the transition programme. Over the next three months a constitution must be agreed that is acceptable to the powerful military.

General Obasanjo will also withdraw Nigeria's troops from the West African intervention force in Sierra Leone.

The winning candidate, who is widely respected in the West for having handed over power to a civilian when he was last head of state 20 years ago, must also instigate talks with other pro-democracy groups. These will be pressing for a more power to be devolved to federal level.

General Obasanjo faces the task of both working with the military, and of sending them back to the barracks. At the same time, he must satisfy restive campaigners for democratic change.

Both General Obasanjo and Mr Falae belong to the Yoruba ethnic group. The need to appease Yoruba sensibilities was behind the decision to put up candidates from their region in the election, which marks a shift in power from the conservative, Muslim north.



Nigeria's military ruler General Abdulsalam Abubakar greets former US president Jimmy Carter who is in the country observing the presidential elections
Corinne Dufka/Reuters

Yeltsin back in hospital for ulcer

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

PRESIDENT BORIS Yeltsin returned to hospital at the weekend after doctors discovered that a stomach ulcer, for which he received treatment in January, had not healed properly.

Yesterday his doctors said they had stopped the "minor bleeding" and he was in a "stable condition" in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital, where they advised him to stay for the rest of the week.

The 68-year-old Kremlin leader had been making another attempt to return to active politics when he complained of weakness on Friday. He entered hospital the following day, where tests showed that the ulcer was bleeding. In spite of this, the Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, who has effectively taken over the day-to-day running of Russia, went ahead with his holiday plans and flew to the Black Sea resort of Sochi. "This shows nothing threatening has happened," the presidential spokesman said.

With each of Mr Yeltsin's relapses, the Communist and nationalist opposition has grown more insistent that the President should retire before his term expires next year. However, last week Mr Yeltsin appeared on TV to quash rumours that he intends to bow out in favour of his Prime Minister saying he would work to the last day of his presidency.

Ancient Californian forests under threat as deal collapses

A LAST-DITCH attempt by the United States government to save some of the oldest redwood forests of northern California from the logging companies collapsed at the weekend, leaving the country's forestry policies in tatters and raising the prospect of an ever-greater battle over the future of some of the world's oldest and most precious trees.

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

backed by the federal government, had offered to pay nearly \$500 million to preserve a 7,000-acre stretch of old-growth redwoods in the Headwaters Forest in Humboldt County.

The deal was controversial enough with environmentalists, as the parcel represented

only a fraction of the 210,000 acres of redwood forest under threat in the area.

But even this offer was not enough for the Pacific Lumber Company, whose aggressive felling of vast stretches of the Headwaters Forest has made it the central target for environmental protests.

Hours ahead of today's deadline for accepting the proposed federal funds, the company de-

clared it could not afford to accept the terms of the deal because the attached logging restrictions would make it impossible to run its business.

"The terms would have cut operations nearly in half, forcing hundreds of employee layoffs... and made our company uncompetitive," said John Campbell, president of Pacific Lumber.

To environmentalists that

reasoning sounded like a last-minute pretext, since the deal was painstakingly negotiated over several years and had been agreed by the company as long ago as 1996. What the company appeared to have calculated was that it stood to gain more by turning down the money and exploiting loopholes in existing forestry policy to keep logging.

Since being taken over by the

Texan financier Charles Hurwitz and his Maxxam Corporation in 1986, Pacific Lumber has tripled the rate of its logging activities, provoking river silt, landslides and other environmental damage.

The firm has been cautioned many times for breaking forestry rules and wiping out the habitat of protected species such as the marbled murrelet and the coho salmon. Twice it

has had its logging licence suspended.

California's new Democratic governor, Gray Davis, responded to the collapse of the deal by vowing to double inspection efforts to clamp down on abuses. Environmental groups who have resorted to "tree-sitting" - living in the trees to prevent logging - have declared a virtual state of war against Pacific Lumber.

But pro-environmental forces appear helpless to stop the destruction. For small landowners to maintain forests has grown increasingly expensive, and parcel after parcel has been sold to big corporations such as Maxxam. They in turn can rely on the support of the local community, which needs the revenue from logging even as it sees its source of livelihood inexorably destroyed.

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Tyrol in black for Alps victims

CHURCH BELLS tolled across the Tyrol yesterday for the 38 souls claimed by the mountains in Austria's worst week of disasters for 50 years.

"Tyrol is in mourning," the province's governor, Wendelin Weingartner, said at an ecumenical service in Innsbruck. Public buildings were draped in black and people young and old packed the regional capital's Stiftskirche (church) to pay their respects.

Sixteen wreathed coffins lay in a row at the church's cloister, marked with the names of the victims, mostly Germans, yet to be repatriated. A guard of honour, tall men in traditional feathered hats and colourful Tyrolean uniforms, kept vigil.

The Netherlands and Denmark had already taken home their dead. The people of Galtür and Valzur kept their own in the valley of the Paznaun, now forever associated with death.

"A difficult week has burdened our beautiful land," said the bishop of Innsbruck, Alois Kohgasser. In the chilly pews under the stucco roof of the church, men and women sobbed through the most haunting passages of the requiem. Some were unable to muster the strength to stand for the Lord's Prayer.

Relatives sat at the front, shoulders hunched, faces buried in trembling hands. One by one, the names, ages and hometowns of their loved ones were read out. A candle was lit for each by members of the mountain rescue teams whose awful job it had been to dig the corpses out of their icy graves.

Through this gut-wrenching roll call, the Stiftskirche's bells rang again, flooding the city and the country watching on live television with the sound of grief.

"The violence of Nature has cut a deep wound," said the Austrian Chancellor, Viktor Klima.

He had come from the capital, Vienna, to express the whole country's sympathy for the bereaved people of Tyrol, and to thank Austrians and foreigners who had "selflessly helped save and protect lives". The countries that had volunteered to help were praised

BY IMRE KARACS
in Innsbruck

by all speakers. "Our land was engulfed by solidarity," said Mr Weingartner.

The bishop echoed him. "We experienced love and solidarity." He spoke emotionally about meeting the four-year old Austrian boy pulled from the snow who has now been showered with gifts from every corner of the country.

"He was saved by pilots and doctors who had never given up hope," said the bishop.

Debates have been raging through Austria since the first avalanche struck Galtür last Tuesday. Mr Weingartner said only: "Lessons must be learnt. We have seen that Man is powerless against the forces of Nature."

Outside the sanctity of the Stiftskirche, his critics asked whether Man contributed to the disaster by forcefully treading where he has no business. And if Man is indeed impotent, then perhaps the tourists and residents should not be misled by Titanic-style boasts of absolute safety.

The day before the catastrophe struck, Galtür's guests had been assured that there was no danger. In the village levelled only once before in 300 years by an avalanche, the survivors are still picking through the rubble of their lives.

Along the road that hugs the River Paznaun, Nature was up to her old tricks. The snow-ploughs had swept it clean in the morning, but the danger of avalanches forced its closure in the afternoon, slamming the door behind the new intake of holidaymakers.

Three people were killed at Stalden in Switzerland yesterday when a helicopter belonging to an air rescue company crashed while on a surveillance mission.

The Air Glacier helicopter had been flying over the Matter valley, near the southern Swiss resort of Zermatt.

All helicopters in the area have in recent days been busy identifying areas most at risk of avalanches, ferrying supplies and evacuating thousands of people cut off by heavy snow.



Red Cross workers paying their respects at the memorial service yesterday

Michael Leckel/Reuters

Serb police swap guns for skis

WHILE FIGHTING raged on in Kosovo between Serbs and Albanians yesterday, the authorities organised a ski festival on the mountains of Brezovica, a winter resort in the south of the province, on the border with Macedonia.

Uniformed soldiers in green camouflage and police in blue, most carrying rifles, wandered among skiers on the slopes to ensure this demonstration of "normality" was not interrupted by an attack from the separatist fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Radovan Urosevic, from the Serb-run Media Centre in the province's capital, Pristina, was delighted by the success of "Ski Fest Serbia 1999". He said: "The major objective is that people get together and have fun."

The competition included a team from the Serbian police force, an organisation better known to the outside world for driving thousands of Albanian villagers from their homes. In the past few days alone, hundreds of civilians have fled across the border to Macedonia from villages near Brezovica.

BY EMMA DALY
in Brezovica

While Kosovo Serbs enjoyed the slopes, about 3,000 Kosovo Albanians gathered 50 miles further north to commemorate the first anniversary of the outbreak of fighting. It was a year ago that the security forces ambushed a car packed with KLA fighters in Libosane, an action now seen by Albanians as marking the official start of the war in Kosovo.

Peace talks on the province's future are scheduled to resume on 15 March. But as fighting continues, one Serbian policeman was killed and four others wounded yesterday in battles near Kacanik. Four Serbs were also reported to have been kidnapped near Orahovac.

The French President, Jacques Chirac, issued a stern warning yesterday to Serbs and ethnic Albanians to cease their fighting or face serious consequences. Mr Chirac was visiting the Nato Extraction Force in Macedonia, which has been deployed to ensure the safety of peace monitors in Kosovo.



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How levity may not always translate in the Levant

ISRAEL ENLARGES its occupation zone by gobbling up another Lebanese village. Hizbollah guerrillas kill three Israeli occupation soldiers and 200 Israeli shells explode in southern Lebanon. Three air strikes bring the number of Israeli raids into Lebanon to more than a thousand in 12 months.

Last week, the Lebanese press was filled with expletives: "harsh", "ugly", "provocative", "painful", "vituperative". The target for this outpouring of rage? *The Independent*, of course, and - in particular - your humble correspondent.

No, I hadn't stolen a Lebanese village or bombed the Lebanese. The Fisk air

force had not fired a single missile. Much worse. I had written a humorous, sometimes affectionate story - last week's *City Life* - about Lebanon's obsession with government corruption and bribery. I even quoted Lebanon's great poet Kahlil Gibran, who called upon the world to "pity the nation that welcomes its new ruler with trumpets, and farewells him with hootings, only to welcome another with trumpets again".

Those who had welcomed the post-war prime minister Rafiq Hariri with trumpets were - now that some of his ex-ministers are accused of bribery - doing a lot of "hooting", including, I said, (and

this was a cardinal crime) a number of journalists not above pocketing the odd \$100 bill in the past. "Hooting" became a theme of the story.

Woe is me. I had forgotten the romanticism of Arab journalism. Within 24 hours, the Saudi-owned, London-based newspaper *Sharq al-Awsat* reprinted the article without permission from *The Independent*, but with slovenly translation and a number of passages censored.

An often light-hearted article about human folly had been transformed into a vicious attack on Lebanese journalists and Rafiq Hariri. Kahlil Gibran had been excised from the article - perhaps *Sharq al-Awsat*

doesn't appreciate Lebanese poetry - and so had a quotation from Henry VIII's minister Thomas Cromwell. There were no "hootings" in the Arab press. Just good, old-fashioned bullshit.

I should have known. I first came across the dangerous power of inventive translation back in the Lebanese civil war when I went to interview the Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, whose father, Kemal, had recently been assassinated (Lebanese readers can here fill in which neighbouring power they blame for the murder). "I

CITY LIFE BEIRUT

am glad my father is not alive to see this tragedy," Walid had told me. So I duly reported. Two days later, a Christian-owned Lebanese newspaper appeared on the stands. Its headline? "Jumblatt tells British reporter he's glad his father is dead." I groaned.

Worse was to come. Another two days later, a Lebanese Maronite radio station - with no love for the Druze - broadcast a female singer chorusing the words "Walid is happy his daddy's dead".

Jumblatt Junior was understandably enraged - it took

two weeks to get to the Chouf mountains with a copy of the original article to assuage him.

I mustn't be patronising. It wasn't that long ago when a *Time* magazine reporter with lousy French interviewed the actor Gerard Depardieu about his childhood. He had talked of witnessing a rape when he was a young boy. He used the French word *assister* - which very definitely means "to be present at", not "to assist". Gerard was falsely accused of taking part in a rape. Heaven knows how many Oscars he lost after that misquotation.

But last week's excursion into Lebanese journalism went one better. My mobile phone was not with calls from former

government officials. Teas and coffees were poured by the dozen as these eminent folk explained to me the virtues (and occasional sins) of the old Hariri government.

But in *As Safir*, one of the few genuinely literary and intelligent newspapers in the Arab world, came an article from the columnist Sadi Nourdeen. How dare I accuse all journalists of taking bribes? I had not. I had hit the "newspaperman's jugular". Mr Nourdeen announced. "The corrupt are present in all media institutions," he added (damagingly) but Fisk had exaggerated.

If only it had ended there. By week's end, *Al-Kifl* al-

Arabi, a harshly anti-Hariri paper, was using *The Independent* as a piece of live ammunition to shell Rafiq Hariri. The former prime minister had been accused by Fisk, the journalist Adnan Ghoul claimed, of participating in an "auction" of journalists - "henchmen" was the word the paper used - for his new newspaper. I had "hung out the washing of Lebanon's corruption". Mr Ghoul's name, by the way, can be translated as "grave-robbing" or "demon". "Ghoul" gave us the English word ghoulish.

Oh dear, dear. And I thought we were zones were dangerous.

ROBERT FISK

Hizbollah kills Israeli general

AN ISRAELI general was killed with two of his men and a civilian in south Lebanon yesterday when Hizbollah, the Lebanese guerrilla group, detonated two roadside bombs beside a convoy in which they were travelling, according to a pro-Israeli militia group.

Erez Gerstein, 33, was chief of Israeli forces in south Lebanon. He is the most senior officer to be killed since Israel established an occupation zone in Lebanon 14 years ago. His death is a severe blow to the army's prestige.

It follows the death of three officers from an elite paratroop unit who were ambushed by Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon last week.

In Beirut, Hizbollah said its men attacked a convoy of senior Israeli officers as they travelled by road between the villages of Kawbaka and Hasbaya, four miles north of the Israeli border. A spokesman

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

said: "All those in the convoy were killed or wounded."

The four dead also included an Israeli journalist aged 32. Three soldiers were wounded, according to the Israeli-organised South Lebanon Army (SLA). The army in Jerusalem did not comment on the attack - a normal procedure while the relatives of the dead and wounded are being informed.

Israeli officials say Hizbollah has a permanent force of some 600 highly experienced guerrillas, whose skills are improving all the time. Of 21 Israeli soldiers killed in south Lebanon last year, 16 were killed by roadside bombs. Even so, senior Israeli generals normally travel in heavily armoured vehicles, which should prove invulnerable to all but the heaviest explosions.

The number of Hizbollah attacks has increased sharply over the past three years, rising from 460 in 1996 to 1,200 in 1998. The army conscious that casualties increase calls in Israel for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, has tried to keep its losses to a minimum. It has reduced the number of outposts and convoys and given a greater role to the SLA, which already mans most of the front-line bases in the security zone.

The death of a senior general in Lebanon came as Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was making a state visit to Jordan. "Israel could not tolerate this kind of repeated attack on its territory, on its citizens or on its soldiers. Israel will know what to do," he said after talks with King Abdullah.

Israeli options appear limited, however. It could launch a wider air war, as it did in the so-called "Grapes of Wrath" operation in 1996 when it



On Saturday it was Hizbollah's turn to mourn. Members carried the coffins of two comrades killed in a clash with Israel on Thursday AFP

bombarded southern Lebanon, killing some 200 Lebanese civilians. It could also attack the Lebanese economic infrastructure, particularly power stations, or Syrian army positions in the Bekaa valley in eastern Lebanon. None of these alternatives would necessarily have any effect on Hizbollah.

Recent military casualties are likely to increase popular pressure on the Israeli government to find a solution to Lebanon. A poll by the Israeli daily *Maariv* showed 63 per cent of Israelis thought the government was not doing enough to find a way out of its problems in Lebanon. But a majority was

against a unilateral withdrawal without security guarantees from Syria. These are unlikely to be forthcoming while Israel refuses to withdraw from the Golan Heights, which it captured from Syria in 1967.

Israel's problems in south Lebanon continue to worsen. On Friday some 2,000 Lebanese

students broke into the village of Arnoun, sealed off by Israel with barbed wire. Arnoun, whose population has dropped from 2,000 to 35 because of Israeli shelling, was previously just north of the security zone. Israel said the village was being used by Hizbollah guerrillas for attacks on a nearby Israeli out-

post in the ruined Crusader castle of Beaufort.

Events in Lebanon are likely to overshadow a dispute over a statement by Mr Netanyahu, shortly before he left to see King Abdullah, that Israel would be under serious threat if Jordan resumed its strategic alliance with Iraq.

- 1966 - GENERAL GOWON LEADS A SUCCESSFUL COUP
- 1967 - START OF THE BIAFRAN WAR
- 1968 - TWO NEWSPAPERS ARE SUSPENDED, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE INDEPENDENCE
- 1976 - COUP BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DIMKA THEN BY GENERAL OBASANJO. THE AUTHORITIES TAKE CONTROL OF THE TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS
- 1984 - COUP BY GENERAL BABANGIDA. TWO DECREES ALLOW JOURNALISTS TO BE JAILED FOR "THREATENING NATIONAL SECURITY"
- 1986 - JOURNALIST DELE GIWA IS KILLED BY A PARGEL BOMB
- 1990 - FAILED COUP, 42 COUP PLOTTERS EXECUTED
- 1993 - ELECTION OF MOSHOOD ABIOLA, BALLOT RESULTS ARE ANNULLED, GENERAL SANI ABACHA TAKES POWER
- 1993 - FIFTEEN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATIONS ARE BANNED
- 1994 - NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZE LAUREATE, WOLE SOYINKA, IS PUT UNDER SURVEILLANCE
- 1995 - COUP ATTEMPT FAILS, 80 OFFICERS EXECUTED. FOUR JOURNALISTS IMPRISONED FOR LIFE FOR "CONCEALING INFORMATION"
- 1995 - NIGERIA IS EXPELLED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FOLLOWING THE EXECUTION OF KEN SARO-WIWA, WRITER AND DEFENDER OF THE OGONI PEOPLE
- 1997 - THIRTY-TWO JOURNALISTS ARE ARRESTED
- 1998 - DEATH OF GENERAL SANI ABACHA. MOSHOOD ABIOLA DIES IN PRISON.

1999 - FREE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA



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Albright flies into a cold front in China trade row

EIGHT MONTHS after Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin raised glasses in Peking, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, flew to China last night to tackle a host of issues that have soured relations.

Their friendly toasts to Sino-US relations have since been replaced by recriminations and mistrust.

On almost every front, the two sides are sharply at odds, from human rights and China's massive trade surplus with the US, to banned satellite deals and plans by Washington for a Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) system for Asia that could embrace Taiwan.

The atmosphere surrounding Ms Albright's visit may determine whether Washington will sponsor a motion against China at this month's UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva.

"Human rights is very much part of my agenda when I'm in China, but we have not yet made a final decision about how we are going to deal with Geneva," Ms Albright said before her departure.

Human rights are again taking centre stage in the relationship, because of China's crackdown on dissidents in the past three months.

Last week the US Senate

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

voted 99-0 for a non-binding resolution urging US action in Geneva.

That was followed by publication of the annual State Department world human rights report, which said China's record deteriorated sharply in 1998.

Yesterday police in the city of Wuhan detained two dissidents who had planned to hold a human rights forum starting today, and placed other activists under surveillance.

And an activist in Peking, Peng Ming, who last year organised political discussion groups, has been sentenced without trial to 18 months "re-education through labour". His alleged offence was consorting with prostitutes, a charge dismissed by his family.

In meetings today with Chinese leaders, Ms Albright will press for tariff reforms and greater market access for American business, reiterating that China's \$70bn trade surplus with the US is not acceptable.

Even on multilateral diplomatic issues, China is proving obstinate. Peking used its Security Council veto last week to end the deployment of 1,100



Madeleine Albright: Human rights are on the agenda

United Nations peace-keepers in Macedonia.

At a time when most of the world is trying to bring peace to the Balkans, Peking decided to punish Macedonia for switching diplomatic relations from China to Taiwan.

In such an acrimonious atmosphere, it is difficult to see what can be pulled out of the hat for the April visit to Washington of China's Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji.

US officials cite the potential for progress on China's long-stalled bid to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as their best bet to put Sino-US relations back on track - although

no major trade and tariff disputes have been settled. China has its own list of grievances against Washington.

Last week, Peking lashed out at Washington's decision to block a \$450m commercial satellite deal, ominously warning that the delay would have a "negative impact" on the two countries' economic and trade relations - Sinospeak that Peking was considering some form of commercial retaliation to hurt America.

The US blocked the sale by Hughes Space and Communications Corp because of fears that sensitive launch technology would fall into Chinese military hands.

Now China's high command has raised the alarm about Taiwan's potential inclusion in Washington's planned TMD system for East Asia. In China's eyes, such a move would be the biggest obstacle of all to harmonious relations.

TMD would provide a shield for Japan, South Korea and possibly Taiwan, ostensibly prompted by North Korea's recent missile launch.

The foreign ministry said that TMD may "trigger an arms race", adding: "We hope that the countries concerned will not cling on to the Cold War mentality."

Britons set balloon record

TWO BRITONS aiming to be the first balloon pilots to fly non-stop round the world made chilly progress over the Indian subcontinent yesterday.

Colin Prescott and Andy Elson, who took off from Spain on 17 February, have already broken the endurance record for balloon flight, achieving 233 hours and 55 minutes early on Saturday. The pilots said the balloon was flying at 15,700ft and was expected to reach the

BY MARCUS TANNER

east coast of the subcontinent last night. They have been denied permission to use Chinese airspace and hope to catch a high-speed jet stream around China and out over the Pacific, organisers at the project's London mission control said.

Once the balloon is over South-east Asia it is expected to fly at an altitude of 30,000ft in a jet stream that should

carry it at speeds of up to 100 mph. The route should take it over Burma to north Thailand, Vietnam, and southern Japan. It is a chilly ride and the pilots have Arctic survival gear to protect them. If all goes well, they could touch down in Europe in two to three weeks.

Another balloon duo, Bertrand Picard from Switzerland and Brian Jones from Britain, intend to begin a round-the-world attempt today.

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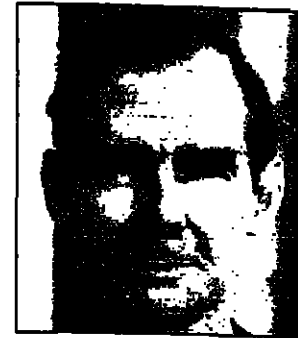
Thanks to the continuing generosity of our many friends and supporters, we are able to bring peace, care and comfort to the terminally ill so that death may indeed come with friendly care.

Joan Shepherd

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BRIEFING

Ross to be National Grid chairman



JAMES ROSS (left), chairman of the stores group Littlewoods and a former chief executive of Cable & Wireless, is to be the next chairman of National Grid.

Mr Ross, 60, will take up the post after the retirement of David Jeffries in July. His background and experience, which also includes a stint as a managing director of BP, make him a logical choice for National Grid. Apart from the UK electricity transmission network, it also owns a half stake in the telecoms operator Energis and is expanding overseas.

PetsMart management offer £15m

THE MANAGEMENT of PetsMart, the UK pet superstore chain, has formally tabled a £15m offer to buy the business back from its American owners. The management team, led by Giles Clarke, is also thought to have tabled an offer for Pets At Home, the privately controlled pet store rival based in Cheshire, and contacted the Office of Fair Trading for confidential guidance on possible regulatory problems.

Green light for Olivetti bid

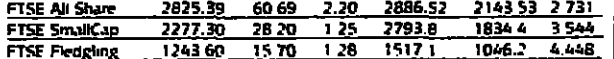
OLIVETTI HAS been given the go-ahead by Italian stock exchange authorities to launch its £36bn bid for Telecom Italia in April. This also means that Telecom Italia cannot attempt to frustrate the bid by buying out the minority shareholding in Telecom Italia Mobile or converting its savings shares into new ordinary shares.

C&W plays down One2One float

CABLE & WIRELESS yesterday played down reports that it was poised for a £5bn flotation of One2One, the mobile phone operator in which it has a half stake. Sources close to C&W said that its new chief executive, Graham Wallace, would examine a number of options ranging from demerger and trade sale to buying out Media One of the US, the other 50 per cent shareholder.

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100

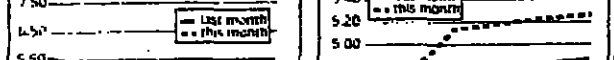


INDICES

Index	Close	High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open
FTSE 100	5175.10	5183.90	5169.30	5175.10	5175.10	5183.90	5169.30	5175.10
FTSE 250	5248.30	5250.10	5246.50	5248.30	5248.30	5250.10	5246.50	5248.30
FTSE 350	2923.60	2925.40	2921.80	2923.60	2923.60	2925.40	2921.80	2923.60
FTSE All Share	2825.39	2827.19	2823.59	2825.39	2825.39	2827.19	2823.59	2825.39
FTSE SmallCap	2277.30	2279.10	2273.50	2277.30	2277.30	2279.10	2273.50	2277.30
FTSE FTSE100	1243.60	1245.40	1239.80	1243.60	1243.60	1245.40	1239.80	1243.60
FTSE AIM	523.50	525.30	521.70	523.50	523.50	525.30	521.70	523.50
FTSE Europe 100	2804.45	2806.25	2800.65	2804.45	2804.45	2806.25	2800.65	2804.45
FTSE Europe 300	1223.63	1225.43	1219.83	1223.63	1223.63	1225.43	1219.83	1223.63
Dow Jones	9306.58	9318.38	9294.78	9306.58	9306.58	9318.38	9294.78	9306.58
Nikkei	14367.54	14379.34	14355.74	14367.54	14367.54	14379.34	14355.74	14367.54
Hong Kong	8858.49	8870.29	8844.69	8858.49	8858.49	8870.29	8844.69	8858.49
Dax	4911.81	4913.61	4907.01	4911.81	4911.81	4913.61	4907.01	4911.81
S&P 500	1238.33	1240.13	1234.53	1238.33	1238.33	1240.13	1234.53	1238.33
Nasdaq	2288.01	2290.01	2286.01	2288.01	2288.01	2290.01	2286.01	2288.01
Toronto 300	6312.80	6314.80	6308.00	6312.80	6312.80	6314.80	6308.00	6312.80
Brazil Bovespa	8912.72	8914.72	8908.92	8912.72	8912.72	8914.72	8908.92	8912.72
Belgium BEL20	3361.88	3363.88	3358.08	3361.88	3361.88	3363.88	3358.08	3361.88
Amsterdam AEX	536.12	537.32	534.92	536.12	536.12	537.32	534.92	536.12
France CAC 40	4092.94	4094.94	4089.14	4092.94	4092.94	4094.94	4089.14	4092.94
Milano MIB30	30555.00	30567.00	30543.00	30555.00	30555.00	30567.00	30543.00	30555.00
Madrid Iboex 35	9997.30	10009.30	9985.30	9997.30	9997.30	10009.30	9985.30	9997.30
Irish DSE100	5335.85	5337.85	5332.05	5335.85	5335.85	5337.85	5332.05	5335.85
S Korea Comp	520.06	520.26	519.86	520.06	520.06	520.26	519.86	520.06
Australia ASX	2879.90	2881.90	2875.10	2879.90	2879.90	2881.90	2875.10	2879.90

INTEREST RATES

UK INTEREST RATES



US INTEREST RATES



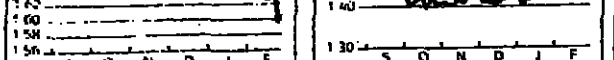
MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46
US	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03
Japan	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
Germany	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10

BOND YIELDS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46
US	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03
Japan	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
Germany	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10

CURRENCIES



POUND

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46
US	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03
Japan	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
Germany	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10

DOLLAR

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46
US	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03
Japan	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
Germany	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46
US	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03
Japan	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
Germany	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10

TOURIST RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46
US	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03
Japan	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
Germany	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10

FSA investigates charges of endowment mis-selling

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority, the City's lead regulator, has begun an investigation into the possible mis-selling of endowment policies amid concerns that hundreds of thousands of homeowners will not be able to pay off their mortgages.

The FSA has confirmed that it is carrying out a series of special inspections at life insurance companies with the aim of checking for signs of mis-selling. If the firms are found guilty of mis-selling, a fresh round of fines and discipline is likely.

A spokeswoman for the regulator said: "We are conducting visits about the issue in response to information we have had, including a high level of complaints and comments from the industry and the media. We are looking at the way they were sold and their performance."

BY ANDREW VERITY

"If we find in our initial visits that there is a wider problem, then we may extend the visits to a wider number of firms." She declined to comment further.

It is estimated that nearly 10 million endowment policies are held by investors, with millions of them designed to pay off mortgages when they mature. Mark Egerton, head of Compliance Consultants, the regulatory experts, said: "If the regulators find mis-selling then this is potentially even bigger than the personal pensions review. The number of people affected by the problem could be much larger."

The investigation was prompted by a sharp rise in the number of complaints about endowments to the Personal Investment Authority ombudsman - the official body that is the first port of call for victims of mis-selling.

In his last report, Tony Holland, the PIA ombudsman, received over 2,000 cases concerning endowments, or 30 per cent of his caseload - only a few hundred fewer than he received over the scandal-ridden issue of personal pensions. A second factor was a finding by the Personal Investment Authority, a division of the FSA, that a quarter of endowment policies are lapsing within four years, often causing serious loss to the investor.

Firms that have seen the biggest rate of lapsing policies include Lincoln, United Friendly (now part of United Assurance), Britannic Assurance, Canada Life, London & Manchester and Abbey Life.

The investigation comes amid a growing chorus of concern that the policies will charge more in fees and pay out less when they mature than investors expected when they bought them. FricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountants, has warned that

policyholders who bought the policies in the late 1980s and early 1990s are being charged twice as much as was suggested when they bought them.

Industry experts fear that sales people sold the policies on the basis of high investment growth, allowing investors to contribute only small premiums in order to reach their target for repaying the mortgage. Several life insurers, including Royal & Sun Alliance, Pearl Assurance, Scottish Widows and Eagle Star, have written to policyholders warning them that they may need to pay more into policies to avoid a shortfall when the mortgage matures.

The companies have contacted an average of 10 to 15 per cent of their endowment holders to alert them to the problem. If that pattern is repeated across the industry, over a million policyholders may be affected by a shortfall.

Holders of endowments maturing now have experienced exceptionally high investment returns, giving them lump sums twice or even three times the amount needed to pay off their mortgages. An investor who began a 25-year endowment in 1973, paying in a total of £15,000, has made an average of 13 per cent a year in investment gains, yielding a lump sum approaching £100,000. But the Institute of Actuaries warns that returns in future will be closer to 5 per cent a year.

Virgin to fly the flag with 2,000 new jobs

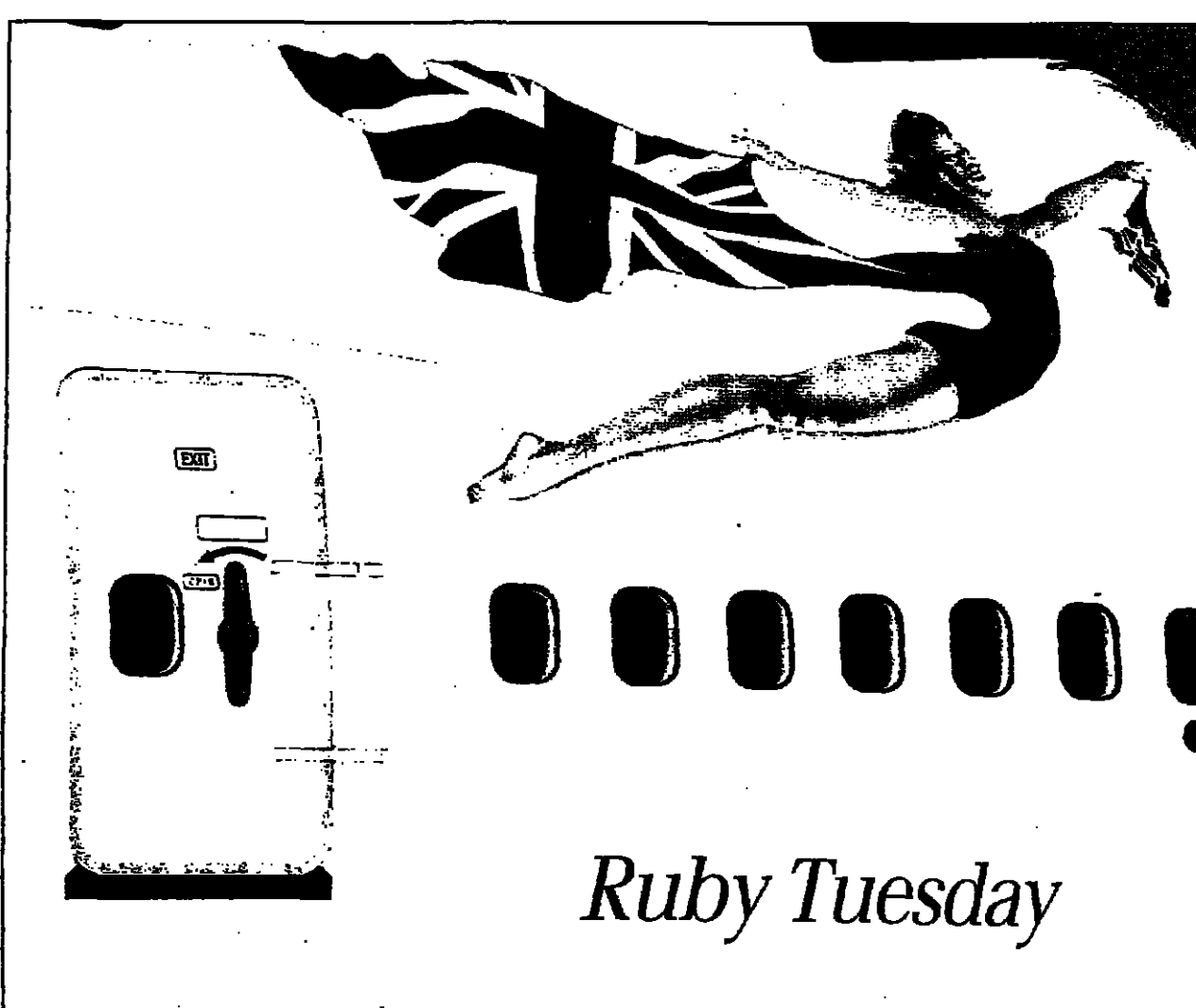
RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Atlantic airline will today unveil a major expansion plan creating 2,000 jobs and adding two new routes to its network, writes Michael Harrison.

The £85m programme will involve an extensive rebranding of the airline, designed to accentuate Virgin's "Britishness".

Its fleet of 24 wide-bodied jets will be repainted to incorporate the Union Flag in a more formal way, highlighting the difference with British Airways, which has opted for multi-coloured tail fins with ethnic designs.

BA, meanwhile, is reported to have reorganised itself into longhaul and shorthaul operations, mirroring the way it was divided into BOAC and BEA in pre-privatisation days.

The two new routes Virgin will fly are to Chicago and Shanghai. It is also launching daytime services between New York and London. Most



The present Virgin look: Its rebranding will stress its "Britishness" in contrast to its rival BA. Dore Dyson

of the 2,000 new recruits will be pilots, cabin crew and check-in staff. They will take the workforce to 8,500.

The rebranding, which is due to unveil in the autumn, will be accompanied by onboard improvements, including new seats in Upper Class designed by the racing car manufacturer, Reynard.

Mr Branson says Virgin Atlantic will make £100m profits this year against £89m in the year to April 1998.

Budget boost to venture capital schemes

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

FRESH MEASURES to boost the provision of venture capital to genuine start-up businesses are due to be unveiled by Gordon Brown in next week's Budget. The Chancellor is expected to announce an enhanced scheme for Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs), but restricted to companies that are genuinely new.

The measures will be part of a Budget with two dominant themes - promoting enterprise and creating a fairer society. Mr Brown sees entrepreneurship as vital to raising productivity.

The Budget will also confirm the creation of a public-private Enterprise Fund, trailed in last year's Competitiveness White Paper. This could either provide direct loans or guarantee loans taken out by start-up firms. There will be measures to boost entrepreneurship, including improved employee share ownership schemes.

Treasury research has shown that UK venture capital is heavily biased towards investing in management buy-outs rather than new businesses, unlike the US. The market for small company equity is also far less liquid.

Venture capitalists invested £3.1bn in the UK in 1997, but £2bn went on financial restructuring, according to figures from the British Venture Capital Association. Just £159m was invested in early-stage companies and £58m in start-ups.

Mr Brown is likely to tailor tax breaks towards genuine provision of venture capital. The Budget will adapt the recommendation of the Williams Report on financing hi-tech businesses. Published in November, it suggested offering full marginal tax relief to investors but confined to hi-tech firms.

The Treasury is nervous about defining "hi-tech", and about the charge that it will try to "pick winners". However, the enhanced VCTs could be opened to all brand new businesses seeking to raise funds.

The CBI's small and medium enterprise council has called for extra measures to boost entrepreneurship. It stressed the need to simplify the available tax reliefs and incentives, and criticised the complexity of executive share ownership schemes needed to provide incentives to key managers and employees in new businesses. Share option schemes have played a key role in US start-ups, and Mr Brown is sympathetic to proposals for an improved UK scheme.

The CBI has also called for improvements to the business asset capital gains tax taper, which now requires employees to hold a minimum 5 per cent stake in the company's equity to qualify. Key employees' holdings can be diluted below that level by equity issues, the CBI says, and the limit should be abolished for full-time staff. The 25 per cent minimum for outside investors should fall to 5 per cent, it says.

Mirror rivals poised for £1bn bids

THE TAKEOVER battle for control of Mirror Group resumes this week, with two regional media groups poised to make rival bids valuing the national newspaper publisher at around £1bn.

Trinity, the UK's biggest regional newspaper group, is expected to make an indicative offer in cash and shares, possibly as early as today, worth 200p to 220p a share.

Regional Independent Media, a privately owned company chaired by the former Conservative Party chairman Sir Norman Fowler, is mean-

while preparing to make a 220p-a-share cash bid.

The Mirror Group board, led by the chairman Sir Victor Blank and its new chief executive John Allwood, is expected to meet in the next few days to consider the offers following an auction run over the weekend by its advisers, SG Hambros.

"The phoney war has ended, things are starting to hot up," said one source close to the auction.

Mr Allwood, who took over as chief executive last month following the ousting of David Montgomery, has promised investors that he will set out Mirror Group's strategy when it reports its full-year results on Thursday.

Trinity broke off talks earlier this year on an agreed takeover of Mirror Group, which would have valued the business at around 165p a share, after a dispute with Mr Montgomery over his future role in the merged group.

RIM, which publishes the Yorkshire Post, then made an

indicative cash offer of 200p, which was rejected by the Mirror board.

Trinity is counting on the support of Mirror Group's largest shareholder, Phillips & Drew, even though its cash-and-share offer may be lower than that of RIM.

Phillips & Drew, which holds a 22 per cent stake, is keen to retain a shareholding in the sector and has been told that if the Trinity bid succeeds, there will be profit enhancements through cost savings of at least £15m a year.

Sir Norman's role as chairman of RIM may also count against it as the flagship title, the Mirror, supports the Labour Party.

However, one source close to Mirror Group said: "The feeling is that a lot of shareholders are not desperate for paper and are rather keener on cash."

Mirror Group management is looking for a bid pitched at 230p a share.

Should Mr Allwood decide that Mirror Group has a future as an independent company, he is likely to sell Live TV and shelved plans for a full relaunch of its *Sporting Life* title.

Bank expected to hold rates as confidence grows

THE BANK of England is expected to keep interest rates on hold this week following signs of a strengthening in both the economy and the general level of business confidence.

A majority of City analysts believe the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee, which begins its two-day meeting tomorrow, will leave rates unchanged at 5.5 per cent.

A series of stronger-than-expected economic data - including falling unemployment, a bounceback in January retail sales and evidence of improving confidence - has fuelled the City's belief that the Bank will pause for breath.

BY LEA PATERSON

pointing to a marked improvement in business confidence.

Its quarterly enterprise barometer, out today, revealed growing optimism about the UK's economic outlook.

The proximity of the MPC meeting to the Budget on 9 March has also increased the chances of a no-change rate verdict, analysts said.

The MPC, which will have been briefed on the contents of the Budget by Treasury officials, is wary of sending the market signals about the Chancellor's plans via its decision on rates.

Neil Parker at Royal Bank of Scotland said: "If I were the MPC I would hold fire for the time being."

James Shugg at Westpac said: "The MPC won't believe there has been enough fresh evidence since the previous rate cut to justify a further move at this stage."

However, City analysts said the meeting would be a close call, and most predicted that UK rates had further to fall. Mr Shugg said: "The MPC majority haven't yet cottoned on fully to the disinflationary trends swirling around the world."

Insurance staff share £8m loyalty windfall

MORE THAN 300 employees at Independent Insurance are to share a £8m-plus windfall, thanks to the company's soaring stock market success. Some staff are set to receive shares worth up to £100,000 each.

The insurer, led by colourful chief executive Michael Bright, is to hand out cut-price shares to 321 staff who saved an average of £15,000 with the company since its 1993 flotation.

The awards are part of the company's first-ever Share Save scheme. Under the plan, staff were invited to give the company around £250 a month for five years in exchange for shares at the end of the period.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

The scheme matured in early February, and Independent has distributed more than 3.7 million shares to employees, giving them the chance to cash in on

the rise in its share price. The savings scheme share price was fixed at 36p, a small discount to Independent's 45p price at the 1993 float. Since then the price has soared, reaching a high of 383p last June.

Despite a fall in recent months the stock at 220p on Friday, is still at a massive premium to the Share Save price, enabling the staff who decide to sell to net

More profits to keep the market happy

THE DELUGE of high-profile profit figures continues this week as more companies with calendar year-ends buckle down to the sometimes unenviable task of letting their shareholders know how they fared on the trading front.

The Footsie contingent includes Hays and Rentokil - who follow each other's fortunes closely - Norwich Union and Rolls-Royce.

Among well known second liners are Burnham Castrol, Arriva, Thistle Hotels and Vickers.

The generally sound profit displays being turned in by our leading companies was one of the influences that helped Footsie reach a new peak last week. The fear that earnings will be particularly flat this year, a factor behind many of the more bearish Footsie forecasts, has yet to be realised.

There is no reason to believe that this week's performances will seriously dent the stock market's enthusiasm, although the impact of the strong pound will be evident among some of the groups at the sharp end of the trading environment.

Hays and Rentokil, classified by the Stock Exchange as business support groups, should be among those chalking up profit gains. Rentokil's full-year figures may fall short of the 20 per cent progress still associated with chief executive Sir Clive Thompson, but a £491m outturn, up 18 per cent, should be possible.

Rentokil, however, needs another deal. The benefits of its highly successful BET takeover are coming to an end, which will hurt the current year's figures. The ratcatchers are known to have cast around for a suitable candidate - Compass, the contract

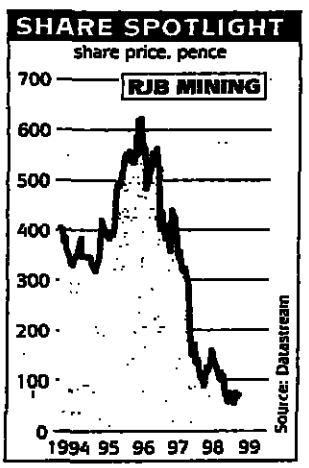
STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

caterer, is one which has been examined - but there is now a feeling that the group will be obliged to descend on an overseas group. Hays, with distribution and recruitment interests, is one of the few offering half-year figures. It should manage £110m against £92.2m.

A pre-tax operating profit up 8 per cent to £700m is the likely outcome for insurer Norwich Union. Sun Life & Provincial, currently absorbing GRE, has said it is set for a rather more impressive 38 per cent gain to £318m and



Royal & Sun Alliance, the GRE underbidder, could co-incidentally record a 38 per cent fall to £610m. Britannic will be down from £177.8m to near £165m.

Cigarette maker Gallaher is unlikely to light up the market with its results; a 2 per cent gain to £320m is the most likely outcome.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group, should underline that some engineers continue to prosper. Profits should be around £300m (£276m) and the order book is expected to stand at another record level.

Engineer GKN should also impress, making up for downturns in some areas, such as car components, with progress elsewhere. A year's result of £444m compared with £406m is on the cards.

The much changed Williams, the former conglomerate now reshaped as a security group although it still has a paints business, should manage an adjusted £317m against £285.1m.

Vickers, however, has already indicated that profits will be down by some 28 per cent to £55m. And Cookson, the industrial materials business expected to accompany its figures with reshaping details, will be lower at around £150m from £178m.

Profit expectations have been pulled back at United News & Media, the Express newspaper publisher. It issued a profits warning towards the end of last year and estimates have been lowered, with the consensus resting at £294m, although some investment houses have gone much lower. BT Alex Brown is one, looking for £263.5m against £246.5m the previous year.

Mirror Group, where takeover bidders lurk, is seen

as producing £100m, up from £92m. The shares are 194p against the 200p offered by Regional Independent Media and a high of nearly 250p last year. The Trinity provincial newspaper group hovers, although it would probably like to see the national newspapers hived off if it took over the Mirror. There is also, as ever, the Germans, who have expressed more than a passing interest in buying the group.

PowerGen, the generator, appears to be set for a 23 per cent profit fall to £445m. And Billiton, the mining group, is also on the profits slide, with around £100m in prospect, down from £153.5m.

Arriva, the transport group, will suffer from lower leasing profits, although its bus side should have dinged the profits bell and the motor dealership at least held its own. A 3 per cent fall to £96m is the expected outcome.

Chemical group Burmah Castrol is another under pressure; it could make around £240m, down from £279.7. Thistle Hotels, which has had a turbulent year with unrealised bids and management changes, should check in with £88m (£79.3m) and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels is in line for £60m (£50.2m).

Dog of the week is likely to be RJB Mining, where falling coal output and prices are hurting and the threat of a miners' strike, although receding, has yet to disappear completely. Even the mild weather works against the company. Profits will be some £68m down from £172.5m. The shares, bumping along at 69p against a near 80p peak, illustrate the group's difficulties and the market's disillusion.

Eurovision song in another contest

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK

BRITAIN'S ENTRY to the 1996 Eurovision Song Contest in Oslo, a song called "Ooh Aah... Just A Little Bit", has spawned four separate legal actions concerning half a million pounds in contested royalties. Two of them are due to reach court on 5 May, but there are doubts whether there will be any money left for the claimants, should they win.

Gina G, the singer who recorded the song for the Eurovision and had a number one hit with it in the UK and elsewhere, launched legal action in November against a Kent-based music company, FX Music, which she claimed owed her over £136,000 for this and other singles.

The original producers of the song, and the man who wrote it, are also suing FX Music. The firm is run by Stephen Rodway, a record producer who at one time went by the professional name of Motiv-8.

Another action by a publishing company, Peer, against Mr Rodway over royalties Peer collected for FX around the world, was settled some time ago.

Last week Simon Taube, who wrote the song, launched legal action against Mr Rodway over the copyright to the record and to £61,000 that was being held in a suspense account in Barclays Bank until the dispute was cleared up.

A partner in Kanaar & Co, the law firm representing Mr Taube, said last week: "This was Mr Taube's one big hit. He hasn't received a penny so far. It's all very sad."

The saga began in 1995 when Mr Taube wrote the song, Gina G - real name Gina Gardiner - then recorded it with a two-man production team, Wainwright and Burton, who worked under the name The Next Room. Then Mr Rodway came in as a new producer and signed a deal with Mr Taube on 4 July 1995 giving Mr Rodway 30 per cent of the songwriting copyright.

Mr Taube claims that since then he has received none of the estimated £408,000 in royalties that Mr Rodway's company FX has collected from sales of the song.

When he complained to Mr



Gina G in 1996: song's writer 'hasn't received a penny'

Rodway, Mr Taube says the latter agreed to pay £61,000 into a suspense account until the matter was settled. Mr Taube says that last December Mr Rodway withdrew the money from the bank. Last week Mr Taube issued a writ through Kanaar & Co, and his case along with The Next Room's claim is due to reach court in May.

Mr Rodway was unavailable for comment.

THE TEAM that led a management buyout (MBO) of the security guard business from Orbis, the manpower services group, last year is suing Orbis over the price paid in the deal.

First Security Group, headed by directors Jonathan Levine, Roger Farrow and David Mundell, bought out the Orbis division that provides security guards to companies within London's M25 orbital road. The deal was funded by £1 and completed last April. However, the complicated calculation as to what the MBO team should pay has produced a dispute.

The calculation was based on the acquired business's net asset value (NAV). The MBO team said it should have been

£1,281,000 for the purposes of the calculation. Orbis says the NAV should be taken as £3.6m and the MBO team should pay correspondingly more for the business.

A RECORD COMPANY owned by Rutland Trust, the corporate finance and investment group, is being sued by another independent UK record company over the copyright to an album by The Stray Cats recorded several years ago, entitled *Choo Choo Hot Fish*.

Castle Music, based in Chessington, Surrey, bought the original rights to the album from the Stray Cats' own company, Pyramid Records of Florida, USA. That contract expired, and in April 1997 another British company, Eagle Rock, bought the rights to the album from Pyramid, according to Eagle.

Eagle Rock now claims that Castle then sold its rights to the album to a third party, a firm called Snapper Plc, when in fact these rights had expired. Eagle claims that Castle, bought by Rutland Trust last year, "threatens and intends to repeat the wrongful acts complained of" unless the court intervenes.

IN BRIEF

More businesses go bust in UK

THE NUMBER of businesses going bust in the UK rose by more than 2,000 last year, making it the only big European economy to show a significant rise in failures, according to the latest figures from Dun & Bradstreet. As the rate of business failures fell by 7.8 per cent across Europe, the UK's annual tally rose by 6.2 per cent - with about 775 businesses going bust each week. Philip Mellor of Dun & Bradstreet said the survey showed Britain was further ahead in "the worsening economic cycle than the rest of Europe".

Coutts chairman

COUTTS & CO, NatWest's 307-year-old private banking arm, has named the Earl of Home as its new chairman from June, when Sir Ewen Fergusson retires. Lord Home, who is currently the chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, has worked at Morgan Grenfell for 32 years, and was the Opposition spokesman on trade and industry in the House of Lords until his resignation last December.

PEP deal

THE SHARE CENTRE, the retail stockbroker that is planning to float, has bought the corporate personal equity plan business of Bradford & Bingley, taking its nominee custody to over £1bn. Meanwhile, it is also launching a corporate Individual Savings Account, or SuperCAT ISA, targeted at employee share schemes, ahead of the introduction of ISAs and the phasing out of new PEPs this April.

Prepared for euro

THE MAJORITY of UK companies are making plans for Britain's adoption of the euro, according to the latest survey by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). Ninety-two per cent of respondents to CIMA's quarterly economic survey expected Britain would join the euro within five years, while 68 per cent said their companies were making preparations.

Morse buys

MORSE HOLDINGS, the computer systems group that is preparing to float, has bought 34 per cent of Partner Systems for £2.8m, with the option to acquire the rest of the Paris-based IT group by June 2000. The price range for Morse's initial offering is expected this week.

Companies reporting and economics diary for the week ahead

TODAY

Economics: Consumer credit (January); M4 final (January); MO provisional (February).
Finals: Aegis; Aggreko; British Polythene Ind; Burnham Castrol; Close Brothers; English China Clays; Hodder Headline; Mayflower; Ocean Gp; Sun Life & Prov; Biscuit Mining; London & Assoc Props; Perkins Food; Sherwood Int; Whitman.
Interims: Billiton; Hays; Redrow; Domestic & General; Grafton; Finlist; McBride.

TUESDAY

Economics: Official reserves (February); Monetary Policy Committee meets.
Finals: Arriva; BPP; Gallaher; Epwin; Fairview Holdings; Jardine Lloyd Thompson; Hickson; Millennium & Copthorne; Norwich Union; Rentokil Initial; RJB Mining; CRH; PSD Group; Wates City of London.
Interims: Britt Allcroft; Druid; News Comm Media.
Meetings: Unidars.

WEDNESDAY

Economics: MPC meeting ends. Rate decision at noon. CBI distributive trades.
Finals: Baird (William); Britannic; Cookson; GKN; Psion; Schroders; Serco; Thistle Hotels; Wilson Bowden; Dawson International; Jacobs Holdings; Parity.
Interims: Lyles (S); Photobition.

THURSDAY

Economics: Construction new orders (Nov/Dec); Housing starts (Jan).
Finals: Elementis; Hilldown Holdings; Mirror Gp; Rolls-Royce; Williams; Royal & Sun Alliance; Vickers; Farnham Homes; Oxford Glycienscience; Sanderson Bramall; Telemetric; Total Office Gp; Vickers.
Interims: White Young Green.
Meetings: Athlone Extrusions.

FRIDAY

Economics: Construction output (Q4).
Finals: United News & Media; Greggs; Limestone; Interim; Euro Sales Finance; Thorntons.

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How I found bliss in my shed at 6.05am

TO MY considerable surprise, I seem to have finished writing a book. Yesterday, at the stroke of 4.12am, I printed out the last 40 pages. Then I went through the five or six miles of scrolled words on my computer screen, and printed some corrections. Then I renamed the chapters to make them sound more cool and epic: "Heart of Darkness", "Into the Whirlwind", "Being and Nothingness" - stuff like that, although the headings bore no relation whatsoever to the content. Then, with a tremble, I wrote the dedication. An hour later, I was still doing the acknowledgements: "...and to my gardener Alexis, for many distracting conversations about mulch when I was completely stuck on page 124. And a big thank-you to Poppy the Labrador for just, you know, being there. The stationers in the village were a constant source of paper..."

For God's sake, I was starting to sound like Gwyneth Paltrow at the Golden Globes. Around 5.30am, I wrote the contents page. It seemed to go on for ever, like the contents of *Pickwick Papers* or *A Suitable Boy*, even though my book is a little shorter than either. And then I turned to the last page of chapter 15 and, with infinite weariness, my fingers landing on the five keys and one space-bar like a tired antelope prodding its moribund prey, I typed the words: THE END.

There was no immediate crash of thunder. Some birds were cheeping pointlessly, as the garden gradually lightened outside my shed, and the distant rumble of the Eurostar sounded a few miles off, but otherwise it was a bit anti-climactic. I thought of Gibbon, as you do at such moments. Nearly 23 years after starting *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, he finished it in Lausanne. What did he do? "It was on the day, or rather night, of the 27th of June, 1787, between the hours of 11 and 12, that I wrote the last lines of the last page, in a summer house in my garden. I took several turns in a ... covered walk, of acacias, which commands a prospect of the country, the lake and the mountains. The air was temperate, the sky was serene, the silver orb of the moon was reflected from the waters, and all nature was silent. I will not dissemble the first emotions of joy on recovery of my freedom and, perhaps, the establishment of my fame."



JOHN WALSH
ON MONDAY

Other writers have celebrated the recovery of their freedom less temperately. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a more ebullient Victorian than Gibbon, wrote "The End" on the last page of *The White Company*, shouted "That's torn it!" and, according to a witness, hurled his steel-tipped pen across the room so that it twanged into the wooden panelling like an arrow. Plato, on finishing the 10 books of the *Republic*, went straight back to the beginning and rewrote the opening sentence a few dozen times, rearranging the word order. James Joyce was completely weird about endings. The last line of *Finnegans Wake* is: "A way a lone a last a loved a long the." How can

you be absolutely certain that you've reached The End with a line like that (except of course that it links up with the beginning of the book)? When he finished *Ulysses*, he couldn't end on a full stop, since Molly Bloom's monologue is famously unpunctuated, so instead he put in his three creative addresses: "Paris - Zurich - Trieste". Should I do that? "Shed - End of Garden - Dulwich". It lacked, I thought, *gravitas*.

THE TRASH-ROMANCE writer hero of Stephen King's *Misery* contents himself, on finishing a book, with an invariable ritual: a bottle of vintage champagne, a match and a single cigarette. Well that's a lot of use to me when I've spent the last few hours devouring Marlboro Lights and Famous Grouse until the shed reeks like a speakeasy, and my periwigged 18th-century prose has become as dishevelled as an old bin-liner. If someone could suggest the right behavioural response to finishing a book, I'd be happy to hear what it is. In the meantime, I'm left with this conundrum: when you gather all the chapters into a foot-high pile of pages and consider that this thing is your creation, it is hard not to feel that either:

a) it's a huge baby, 81b 40z, a great, ignorant, snoring lump in your hands, which will grow into a long, athletic, intellectually gifted and fatally charming object that will live for 130 years; or
b) that what you've produced with such straining labour is something quite different, something coiled, steaming and rather unpleasant, which should be wiped up and disposed of without delay.

Which of the two it is, I cannot say at 6am, thank God. But with the help of time and the critics, I suspect I will find out.

TRAVELLERS WILL be indebted to the Australian Lonely Planet organisation for coming up with the *Hill Tribes Phrasebook*, for use among the ethnic minorities of South-East Asia and south China.

No more will you be at a loss, conversation-wise, when entering the Long Huts of the headshrinkers of Bhutan. No longer will you struggle for the right thing to say when confronted by the furtive shamans of the Himong tribe. Say goodbye to social awkwardness when introduced to the chicken plucking sacrifice of the Akha brethren.

Soon you too will be saying, *Naw a h'aw zuh hpet tu la?* ("May I sleep in your house?") soon after meeting the elders, and, when asked to use the bathroom, be able to interpret with laughing ease the standard Akha reply, *Baw tsah i-eu* ("You may go in the jungle, strange white person"). You will learn not to swing on the Yeh Ku women's New Year village swing, which is employed on only one day a year; that however right for your colouring blue may be, to the locals it is the colour of death; and that if you see a courting ritual in which young men and girls throw cloth balls at each other to indicate sexual interest, it is unwise to rush in shouting, "For pity's sake stop this appalling violence!"

The guidebook has, in fact, a perfectly serious agenda; too many Oz trekkers in Thailand have, apparently, interrupted "traditional patterns of life" in hill-tribe areas. What the Thai government seems most sensitive about is the new attraction, for rich-kid trekkers, of going into the jungle and smoking opium with the primitive people. Some of the hill tribe guides have been affected (it's said they've been reduced to stumbling about, saying, "Like, totally amaaaaazing, man" and asking tourists for copies of *Tubular Bells*) and the authorities have been keen to insist that visitors show respect for local customs and taboos.

How interesting to discover that if visitors break local taboos, the hill tribes no longer eviscerate or shrink you; they fine you a hefty sum. That's evolution for you: after the Noble Savage comes the Stropky Traffic Warden...

IT'S ENOUGH to turn your hair green. Negotiations between the National Portrait Gallery and a



Conan Doyle (below left) seemed to know how to finish a job properly; while (above, from top left) Dusty Springfield, Sandle Shaw and the Petshop Boys are 'nice' enough to exhibit

brace of groovy curators have suddenly hit the wall, I hear. Although the NPG's photographic "Icons of Pop: 1958-1999" exhibition is still months away (it opens on 4 June, barring an outbreak of fisticuffs), the participants have reached an ideological impasse.

The show is a celebration of cool British pop stars, photographed by cool British snappers at the moment their utter fab-ness first announced itself to thunderstruck British audiences.

Thus, we start with Cliff Richard in 1958, move swiftly through Aidan Faith, Dusty Springfield and Sandle

Shaw, on to the Beatles, Rolling Stones and The Who, through Bowie, Rod, Elton, glam rock, punk, the New Romantics, Wham! and the Pet Shop Boys (just as well, really, since Neil Tennant is writing the foreword to the catalogue) and onward to the Nineties, where the trouble lies.

The co-curators, Terence Pepper, the NPG's photography henchman and Philip Hoare, biographer of Noel Coward and connoisseur of decadence, think that no line-up of Nineties pop stars would be complete without a nice portrait of The Prodigy.

The senior ranks of the NPG took one look at Keith Flint's gurning, nose-studded countenance, at their last single, "Smack My Bitch Up", and the accompanying video (involving excretion, cocaine, nightclub violence and a shag in a loo) and begged to differ.

"Word came down from an *éminence grise*," Hoare tells me, "saying the gallery is a tax-funded national institution and this is simply 'not their sort of thing'. It strikes me as an absolutely shameless, Marxist rewriting of cultural history even to think of leaving Keith out..."

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No 3858 Monday 1 March

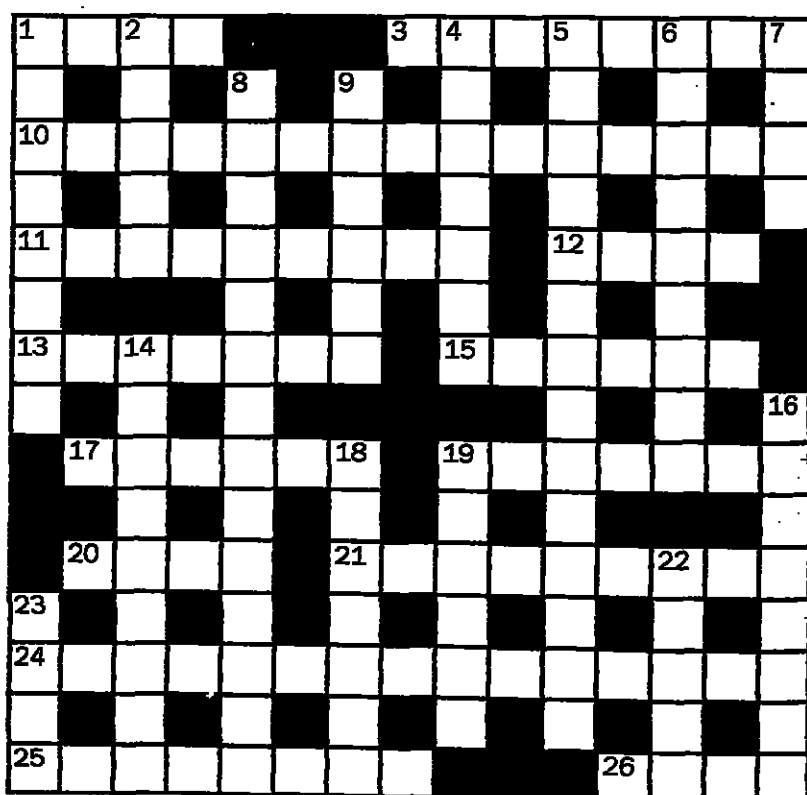
by Esau

ACROSS

- 1 Become incensed with smoker's 21? (4)
- 3 Sounding drunk, act disloyally, and pay the price (5,3)
- 10 Blocking everyone else's view (4-11)
- 11 Show some sparkle at soccer, playing with United (9)
- 12 I try to catch a villain in dramatic setting (4)
- 13 Risk ham cooked in part of the sub-continent? (4)
- 15 Like some material, for example, that brings money in (6)
- 17 I begin putting skill first, as a painter (6)
- 19 Being surreptitious, pinch most of article (7)
- 20 Fail to find teacher's address (4)
- 21 Fringe benefit available in industry? (2-7)
- 24 So slip into brogue, and be indiscreet? (3,4,2,2)
- 25 22 refers to a part in this key, perhaps (8)
- 26 Having charges dismissed (4)

DOWN

- 1 Upset, if hacks laid on English food (4-4)
- 2 Heavy duty chopper? (5)
- 4 Maybe she accepts unexpected rise coming in (7)
- 5 Getting on with assessment of original work on 2? (4,2,3,5)
- 6 A long coat redesigned to fit the figure (9)
- 7 Rather large kitchen facility (4)
- 8 Problem afflicting female staff in low



joints (10,4)

- 9 Where flying is involved, I'm up to challenge mentioned (3-3)
- 14 Is one given a ring, to cover what's to be worn at dinner? (9)
- 16 Necking, perhaps, at such a very formal function (5,3)

- 18 Getting bill, when firm does something saucy? (7)
- 19 Sucker finally accepts by phone? Not quite (6)
- 22 Describing the victim of a forearm smash, in wonderful narrative (5)
- 23 One part of the opera (4)

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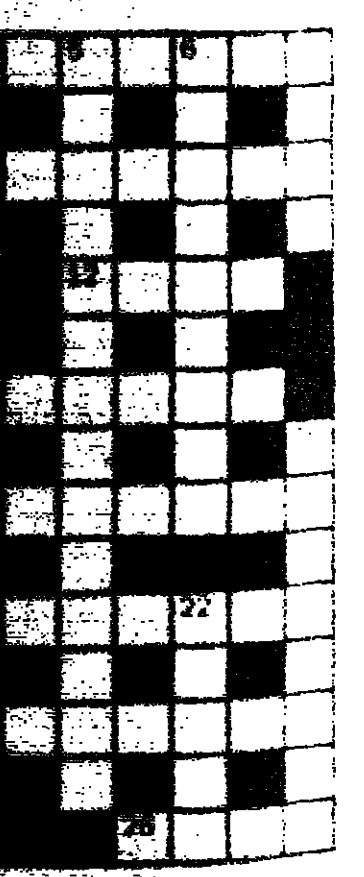
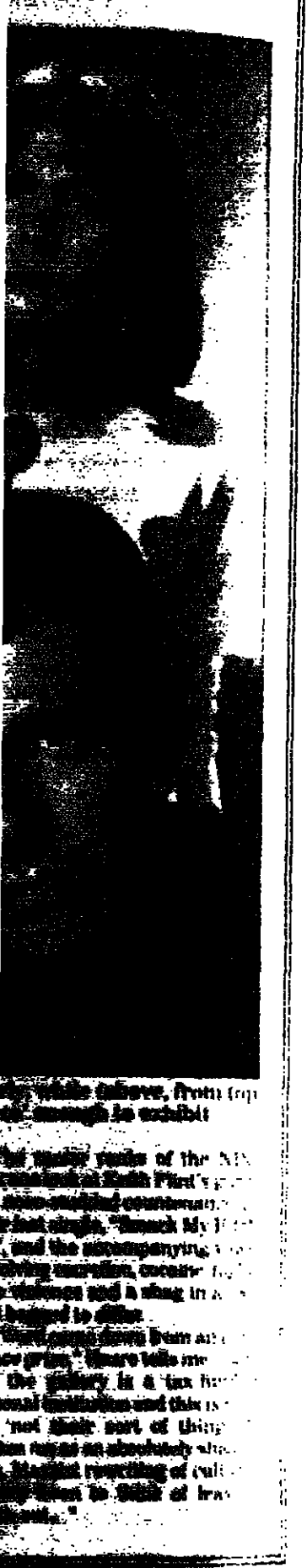
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FULL SPORT COVERAGE IN NEW 12-PAGE SECTION

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- 2 Graham Kelly on why foreigners are an asset to our game
- 6 Richard Williams sees Inter put on a United front
- 7 Inga sends Sarries out of the cup
- 9 Rusedski loses Battersea power struggle



SPORT

1 March 1999

Arsenal dealt Hamann blow

By SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United 1
Arsenal 1

WHEN NEWCASTLE escaped from Highbury with a mercurial 3-0 defeat five months ago Raul Gullit pledged to go through his team "with a battering ram". For three-quarters of an hour at St James' Park yesterday Arsenal required a minimum of force to leave the Dutchman's rebuilt team on the floor.

The case for Gullit's defence lay in tatters, the dithering of Nicolas Pabizas and Steve Howey having presented the Gunners with more shots than the 36th minute one with which Nicolas Anelka hit the bull's-eye. Fortunately for the Newcastle manager, though, the shortcomings on view were not restricted to his own side.

Instead of going for the jugular, Arsenal sat back after the break. Placing the emphasis on the protection of their lead, they paid for their caution with two dropped points when Dietmar Hamann struck with an inspirational flash after 78 minutes.

Sidestepping Tony Adams, Nigel Winterburn and Martin Keown on the right angle of the Arsenal box, Germany's midfielder beat David Seaman with a shot hit with the outside of his right foot. It left the title holders seven points off pole position in the Premiership, albeit still with a game in hand of Manchester United and without the distraction of Europe.

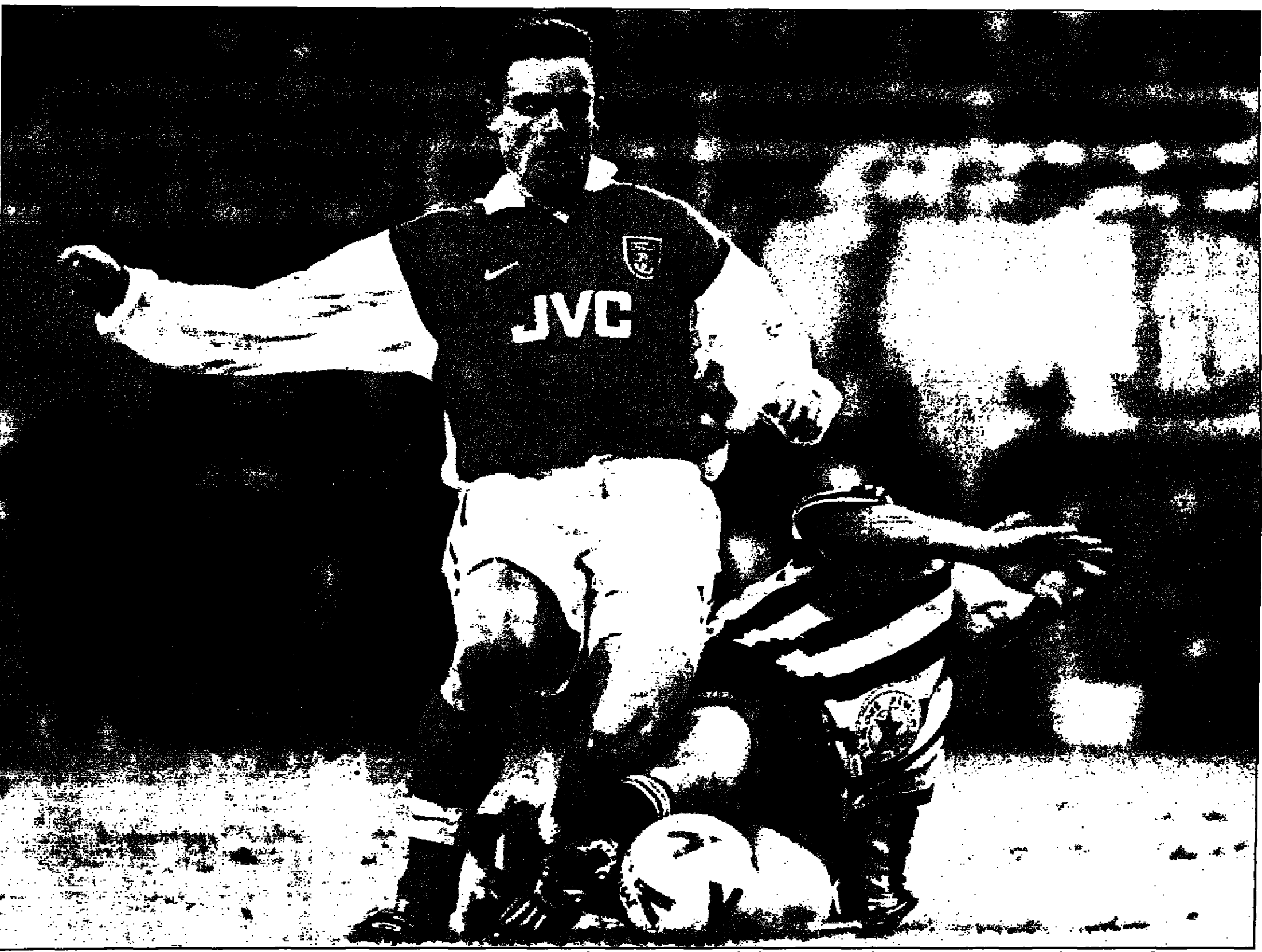
"The problem now is we can afford less mistakes than the others," Arsène Wenger lamented. "In the second half we just didn't come out enough. We made the mistake of trying to get through with a 1-0."

Gullit was simply relieved that his Magpies avoided a wing-clipping. While Arsène and Arsenal pursue the defence of their Double, Newcastle's season hinges on their late against Everton in the sixth round of the FA Cup at St James' next Sunday and their home guard can ill afford to be so doddering - even against such a soft touch of an attacking force as the Toffeemen happen to be.

Gullit resisted the temptation to flood his latest acquisition yesterday, swayed by the match fitness Silvio Maric lost in the month he spent waiting for his work permit to be rubber stamped.

The Toon Army will have to wait to discover whether the Croatian midfielder is a Maric truly made in heaven - or more like Hebburn - but their spirits were raised by the sight of Alan Shearer in the Newcastle starting line-up.

Recovered from a midweek dose of flu, the England captain resumed his forward-line leading duties alongside Louis Saha, who could hardly have come closer to giving the Magpies a flying start. With less than



Marc Overmars, the Arsenal winger, has his progress checked by a determined tackle from Newcastle United's Steve Howey during yesterday's 1-1 draw at St James' Park

two minutes on the clock, Hamann released Laurent Charvet on the right and the full-back's ball to the near post was whipped first-time into the side-netting by his on-loan compatriot.

It did not take long for the Gallic contingent on the field to be reduced from six to five. Arsenal were already missing a little something in midfield, with Emmanuel Petit on the injured list, and from the fourth minute

they were without his replacement, Remi Guard, courtesy of a mistimed challenge by Nolberto Solano.

It was the lack of timing in the Newcastle defence, though, that tipped the balance of play in Arsenal's favour. They might have profited from it in the 17th minute had Dennis Bergkamp fed the ball to a more striking finisher than Tony Adams when Howey and Didier Domi made a dithering mess of

what ought to have been simple clearance duties.

With only Shay Given to beat, the Arsenal captain stubbed his toe and the ball bobbed wide. Not that the finishing touch of Shearer was any more assured when Newcastle broke on the counter-attack in the 28th minute.

To be fair to the England captain, he did have to stretch to connect with Solano's invitation ball across the

Arsenal goalmouth, but Newcastle could ill afford to see his shot thud off David Seaman's right-hand post.

That much was made painfully clear to them when Howey and Dabizas conspired to let in Anelka eight minutes later.

The former conceded possession to Bergkamp in midfield and the latter produced an air shot in attempting to block the through ball that followed. It left Anelka with only

Given to beat and the teenager confidently dragged the ball round him with his right foot before firing his 14th goal of the season with his left foot.

Dropping deep to continue the theme (if not the sublime class) of his tour de force against Leicester, the orchestrating Bergkamp put Arsenal in control. He would have put them two goals ahead before the break, too, had the thundering volley he dispatched towards the Gal-

lowgate End goal not struck Gary Speed and deflected wide.

Goals: Anelka (36) 1-0; Hamann (78) 1-1. **Newcastle United (4-4-2):** Given; Charvet, Dabizas, Howey, Domi; Solano (Nitzsche, 60), Hamann, Speed, Brady (Lee, 60); Shearer, Saha. **Substitutes not used:** Barlow, Griffin, Harper (64). **Arsenal (4-4-2):** Seaman; Vivas, Adams, Keown, Winterburn; Partou, Vieira, Gardie (Hughes, 4), Overmars (Upson, 85); Anelka, Bergkamp. **Substitutes not used:** Ranu, Dabizas, Harington (84). **Referee:** M Reed (Birmingham). **Bookings:** Newcastle, Hamann, Dabizas. **Arsenal:** Overmars, Bergkamp. **Man of the match:** Bergkamp. **Attendance:** 36,708.



Le Saux protests innocence in a running battle with Fowler

Le Saux risks trial by video

By DAVID ANDERSON

GRAEME LE SAUX could face trial by television after the referee Paul Durkin admitted he would have sent him off had he seen an apparent elbow assault on Robbie Fowler.

Durkin missed the off-the-ball incident during Chelsea's 2-1 win over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and will not be including it in his report to the Football Association.

The official from Portland, Dorset, has since seen the incident on television in which Le Saux appeared to elbow Fowler on the back of the head and claims he would have shown the Chelsea and England defender the red card.

"I can assure everyone if I had seen it Le Saux would have been sent off," he said. "But both myself

and my assistant referee did not see it because it was off the ball so, no, it will not be in my match report.

"I saw it on television this morning and it's clear for everyone to see something has happened.

"What happens now is down to the FA, but from a personal point of view it was just a little bit annoying that I missed the incident."

The FA has used television evidence against players before, such as when John Hartson kicked Eyal Berkovic earlier this season, and Le Saux could face disciplinary action even though Durkin did not see the incident.

The BBC will provide the FA with a tape of the incident if asked and

an FA spokesman, Steve Double, said: "It is an option while there is also the fourth official's match report to consider."

The incident was the culmination of a running battle between Le Saux and the Liverpool striker, for which both players were booked.

The feuding pair were highlighted by Trevor Brooking on the BBC's Match of the Day and he felt Le Saux and Fowler had been lucky to escape red cards for their antics.

"I think both players were fortunate that they got away with just yellow cards each," he said.

"There had been a lot of verbal goadings going on from Robbie to Graeme, because initially Robbie felt Graeme had made a little bit of a meal of a tackle down the line

when he had stayed down. Robbie was booked for that and it took a long time for Graeme to take the free-kick and he got booked as a result of not taking the free-kick.

"They carried on for the next two or three minutes until the incident and it did appear from the video evidence that there was an elbow to the back of Robbie's head.

"That was not spotted by the referee while the linesman's view was blocked by another Chelsea player.

"They did not know what had happened and they just saw Robbie was down so when Paul Durkin called them over, having not seen the incident he could not react to it."

Le Saux has gained something of a reputation for indiscipline over the

years and earlier this season he was sent off for punching Blackburn's Sébastien Perez, while in 1995 there was his infamous brawl with his former Rovers team-mate David Batty.

On that occasion, he was involved in an onfield fracas with Batty during Blackburn's 3-0 Champions' League defeat against Spartak Moscow in Russia. The two players squared up to each other and appeared to exchange blows.

In December 1997, after he had rejoined his first club, Chelsea, following his spell with Blackburn, Tottenham fans accused Le Saux of making rude gestures during the Stamford Bridge side's 6-1 win at White Hart Lane.

Flair schools must be on the FA agenda

IMAGINE THIS starting line-up for the showpiece climax of the current English football season, the FA Cup final at Wembley on 22 May:

Arsenal: Manninger, Dixon, Vivas, Adams, Grimandi, Petit, Vieira, Gardie, Overmars, Anelka, Bergkamp.

Chelsea: De Goeij, Ferrer, Lambourde, Babayaro, Lehoucq, Petrescu, Wise, Goldback, Forsell, Flo, Zola.

Only three players - Lee Dixon, Tony Adams and Dennis Wise, all well past the first flush of youth - are English. Will the first Cup final in the new millennium be totally bereft of players eligible to represent the home country? If it is, will it matter?

The Cup final has long been graced with the special artistry that foreign players can provide. In 1952 Winston Churchill, the guest of honour attending his first FA Cup final, presented a medal to the winning goal scorer, George Robledo of

Newcastle United. The Chilean inside-forward's 84th-minute strike had put paid to 10-man Arsenal's brave resistance in those pre-substitute days after the Welsh international full-back, Wally Barnes, damaged his knee early in the game.

The following year Blackpool's South African left winger, Bill Perry, was another winning goalscorer. Perry, later to qualify for England, swept home Stan Matthews' cross to beat Bolton Wanderers 4-3 in a match known ever since as the Matthews Final.

In 1956 Bert Trautmann, Manchester City's German goalkeeper, bravely finished the 2-1 victory over Birmingham City despite suffering a badly damaged neck 20 minutes before the end.

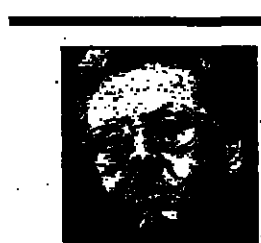
And, of course, in modern times Manchester United's French talisman, Eric Cantona, drilled in the only goal against Liverpool in 1996 following his suspension for

assaulting a job who had hurled a racist epithet at him at Selhurst Park.

We can do little to legislate against the foreign invasion. The Bosman judgment in 1995 ruled that any discrimination against European Union nationals was illegal.

Previously teams could include only three foreign players. Now the FA Premier League rules merely stipulate that, other than players who have been resident in the United Kingdom for five years, clubs can field a maximum of three non-EU players. These players have to meet strict criteria before a work permit can be obtained from the Department of Employment. They need to have appeared in 75 per cent of their country's full international matches over the previous two years.

The Bosman case was expected to dampen down the transfer market. It did, but only at a certain level. Second



GRAHAM KELLY

and Third Division clubs began to experience serious difficulty in selling players to the Premier League. The trade from Scotland to England all but dried up. Bank managers of smaller clubs became increasingly uneasy as the books became harder to balance. However, premium prices still prevailed at the higher end of the domestic market and clubs were compelled to shop abroad.

Moreover, the money on offer in the Premier League made it increasingly easy to attract overseas stars. By and large, Germans, Italians and Spaniards earn top money in the leagues of these three countries, but few other nations can compete with the salaries that the cash-rich Premiership can pay. Even France, the World Cup winners, lose most of their players to other leagues.

So in the absence of any real shift in the economics which affect football across Europe, not even King Canute would attempt to push back the tide of foreign transfers.

Not that I would want any further restrictions. The Carling Premiership is the envy of the world, with the added colour and flair which the foreigners place alongside the traditional English passion and commitment, even though the quality of defensive play is not always of the highest calibre.

Ask any of Manchester United's brilliant young Englishmen - Gary and Phil Neville, Nicky Butt, David Beckham or Paul Scholes - what Cantona's presence meant. They will testify to his touch, his vision and, above all, his willingness to practise his skills all day long. He helped them enormously.

Speak to any Arsenal player (except possibly Marc Overmars) and they will tell you how the emergence of Nicolas Anelka has provided a vital outlet not only for them but also for the stunning French team, which seems to have improved since victory over Brazil last July.

Finally, question any Spurs supporter who struggled to beat the traffic in north London after last Wednesday's David Ginola-inspired FA Cup replay victory over Leeds United sent the Seven Sisters Road into a horn-toting frenzy of Parisian proportions.

The foreign players are a clear asset to the game. They attract crowds and inspire home-grown players to emulate them. The clubs are not going to be deterred by critics bemoaning the scarcity of English players or the damage that may be caused to the England team if domestic talent is unable to break through. The fans, staunchly supportive of their own teams before they think about England, are not going to desert the turnstiles.

So it is the Football Association which must act: not to stem the foreign tide but to improve the quality of our own players. The Premier League already licenses its clubs to have player development academies with high standards of training and care. It already subsidises Football League clubs to the tune of £157,000 per club for centres of excellence.

The FA's technical director, Howard Wilkinson, must persuade the Premier League

that long-term investment in academies which produce English players of the highest skill and flair is compulsory, not optional. He must ensure that young talent is identified and nurtured wherever part of the country it emanates from, not just near a Premier League club. And Wilkinson must press ahead with his visionary plans to build a true centre of football excellence like that at Clairefontaine which has served the French so effectively.

If this happens we will have our own Ginolas competing with the overseas stars for Premier League places: the England team will be renowned for its technique in years to come; and Her Majesty the Queen will find herself torn between loyalty to her family antecedents and her own subjects when she attends the World Cup final at the new Wembley between England and Germany in 2006!

Gregory faced by Dublin dilemma

THIS WAS a match of important consequences for both sides but also, perhaps, for bus drivers in Coventry, who may be less at risk from angry red-haired football managers as they go about their business this morning.

Gordon Strachan is an excitable chap at the best of times and one can only assume it was the frustration of seeing his team slide into the bottom three that caused him to halt and then board one such vehicle as he drove home from work last week. Apparently he was upset by two schoolboys aiming abusive gestures at him from the back seat and decided, not unreasonably, that they deserved a ticking off. Even by Strachan's standards, it was an extraordinary episode.

There should be none of that today following Coventry's first League win at Villa Park in 63 years of trying. It might be as well, however, to give a wide berth to John Gregory, who may not be in the best of tempers on the journey to Villa's training ground, ready to confront his team today about a performance he described as the worst he had been involved with, as manager or player.

Villa, who led the Premiership for almost three months before Christmas, have surrendered any realistic chance of the title by losing form just as key rivals are finding theirs. With Arsenal slipping into high

BY JON CULLEY

Aston Villa 1
Coventry City 4

er gear, Manchester United pressing relentlessly forward and even Chelsea staying with the pace, Gregory's team could not have chosen a worse moment to win only one point in five matches.

"For us to win the title now would mean the other three all suffering the kind of run we've just gone through," Gregory said. "Somehow I can't see that happening."

Villa's slump is a new experience for their young manager, whose record until now had suggested something of a Midas touch. The troubles with Stan Collymore and Paul Merson pulled the rug from under that perception and now there is the new problem of Dion Dublin, who needs an operation on a groin injury. Currently he is a poor imitation of the striker who scored eight goals in six matches following his £5.75m move from Coventry in November.

His penalty on Saturday - awarded harshly against Richard Shaw after Coventry's more obvious claims against Riccardo Scimeca had been turned down - ended an 11-week goal drought but otherwise Dublin was a virtual passenger.

"That's what management is about, being ready for these



Julian Joachim, challenged by Richard Shaw, earns Villa a disputed penalty at Villa Park

Allsport

sort of situations, and I haven't dealt with them very well so far," Gregory said, self-effacingly. He had, though, seen the hard times coming.

"In a way I knew it couldn't last," he admitted. "We were always at our maximum every week, for the first four or five months of the season. Every-one was really on top of his game, playing to his limits, but that is not happening now. There are too many below par performances at one time."

Coventry, meanwhile, have been playing well but with little luck, winning only twice in 13 matches and watching their hopes of a UEFA Cup place give way to the fear of relegation. At last here, save for the penalty they should have had, everything went right.

John Aloisi, obliged to wait for his chance after Strachan plumped for Noel Whelan and Darren Huckerby as his post-Dublin front two, seized it with both hands, twice getting in

place to capitalise on Stephen Froggatt's good service. George Boateng, Coventry's dynamic and intelligent Dutch midfielder, matched his team-mate's feat by scoring twice also.

"I've been frustrated not for me but for the players," Strachan said. "It is hard to keep telling them the breaks will come. They were brave, mentally and physically, today."

With that, and a grin, he was off. Road rage counselling can be delayed a while yet, after all

Goal: Aloisi (25) 0-1; Boateng (51) 0-2; Dublin pen (53) 1-2; Aloisi (73) 1-3; Boateng (84) 1-4.
Aston Villa (4-4-2): Oakes; Watson (Barry 44), Scimeca, Southgate, Wright; Merson, Gregory, Taylor (Draper, 28; Collymore, 55); Hendrie; Joachim, Dublin. Substitutes not used: Samuel, Bonnici (18).
Coventry City (4-4-2): Hedman; Nilsson, Williams, Shaw, Burrows; Boateng, McAliston, Telfer, Froggatt; Huckerby (McSheffrey, 90), Aloisi. Substitutes not used: Konig, Solomons, Edworthy, Kirkland. Referee: U Rennie (Sheffield).
Bookings: Aston Villa: Grayson, Hendrie, Southgate, Dublin. Coventry City: Williams, Aloisi.
Man of the match: Aloisi.
Attendance: 38,799.

Graham steels Spurs for the journey ahead

BY STEVE TONGUE

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Derby County 1

A HOME game against Southampton tomorrow will give us an inkling of whether George Graham can pull off a trick at Tottenham that even he struggled to master in his trophy-laden years as manager at the other end of the Seven Sisters Road. Only once - when snatching the championship from Liverpool's grasp in 1989 after reaching the FA Cup semi-final - did Graham's Arsenal, for all their competitive instincts, prevent sustained interest in a major cup competition from interfering with their progress in the League.

In 1993, the year of the Cup double that Spurs are now attempting to emulate, they won only two of their last 10 League games and dropped to 10th place; the following season as the European Cup-Winners' Cup was successfully pursued, victories were scraped in three of the last 10, all by the odd goal.

Graham claimed that Saturday's match at White Hart Lane proved his new charges, although less battle-hardened than Arsenal's, would not be distracted into conceding Premiership points that they cannot afford to lose while still within reach of the relegation strugglers. There were also signs, however, following a draining FA Cup win over Leeds three days earlier, that some players would find it difficult to lift themselves twice in a week. For all the excellence of their goalkeeper Russell Hoult, Derby should not have been allowed to escape with a draw - Tottenham's sixth in succession in the Premiership.

The answer might be to dip deeper into what is now a stronger squad, as well as a far more confident one, than when Graham arrived five months ago. The imaginative introduction of Jose Dominguez, for the first time since mid-October, turned Spurs' for-

times, as he ran at the visiting defence and set up Tim Sherwood for an equalising goal.

Having won over most supporters, despite the lack of progress up the League table, Graham will risk further anti-Arsenal prejudice rearing its head this week with the appointment of Stewart Houston, once his assistant at Highbury, above the popular Chris Hughton. "Nowadays a manager travels abroad a lot, watching games and players, and I want my philosophies to work when I'm not here," Graham said yesterday.

"It's no slight on Chris Hughton, who's done a great job, and he will still play a big part, but I want my own man here."

Derby also have Arsenal on their mind, and a clear week to prepare for Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final visit there. Although Stefano Eranio, nominated as the man to shackle David Ginola but injured early on, should be fit, Tony Dorigo is likely to miss the tie with a hamstring strain. "I'd rather be coming back here," grinned the Derby manager, Jim Smith.

Whichever part of north London they head for, his team will want to create more than the two scoring chances carved out on Saturday. Paulo Wanchoppe missed the first, then set up Dean Burton to score from the second.

Goal: Burton (46) 0-1; Sherwood (69) 1-1.
Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Rocco, Vega, Campbell; Edinburg, Anderson, Sherwood, Frimpong; Ginola; Armstrong (Dominguez, 65); Ineson. Substitutes not used: Bardsley (18), Nielsen, Simon, Young, Derby County (4-4-3): Hoult; Lauren, Calton, Schor; Eranio (Priox, 40), Corley, Ebrahim, Dorigo (Harper, 73); Balaso (Priox, 73), Wanchoppe, Burton. Substitutes not used: Knight (18), Surrridge, Rehman (1 Winter, Cleveland).
Seeding-off: Tottenham Hotspur: Edinburgh, Scotland; Tottenham Hotspur: Edinburgh, Derby County; Wanchoppe, Lauren, Burton.
Man of the match: Ginola.
Attendance: 35,352.

Charlton look to build on fans' show of faith

FOR THE neutral, The Valley is fast becoming one of the most pleasant arenas in which to watch football. Alan Curdishley's team rarely fail to give their all even though they might lack a virtuoso like Ginola or Bergkamp, and the atmosphere generated by regular full houses of about 20,000 is capable of matching almost anything on offer throughout the land.

On Saturday, it has to be said, the Charlton faithful were not in the best of voice as they watched their team struggle to apply the finishing touch in a number of potentially match-winning situations, but they still encouraged and cheered right to the end and it would be a shame if they were not rewarded with at least another season in the top flight.

Who knows, the club could even go on to establish itself in the Premiership if it survives its first winter. How Wimbledon, for example, must envy Charlton's prize possession - a snappy little stadium right at the heart of the local community in an area of London crying out for a common cause for people of all kinds to support.

As recent events concerning

BY ADAM SZRETER

Charlton Athletic 0
Nottingham Forest 0

the neighbouring district of Eltham have highlighted once more, race relations in that part of the capital are among the worst in the country but Charlton seem in no doubt about either their duty to the community or the beneficial effects that fostering racial harmony would have for the club.

"There has been a discernible increase in regular attendance at The Valley among ethnic minority groups," read a special edition of the supporters' club newsletter, circulated to the press on Saturday. "However despite the progress made, Charlton Athletic still does not have a supporter profile which properly reflects that of the local football-loving population."

"Our intention is to continue the fight against racism in football, and to widen Charlton Athletic's appeal still further, making The Valley an attraction for all and so helping ensure that Charlton become one of the big clubs in English football

on and off the playing field."

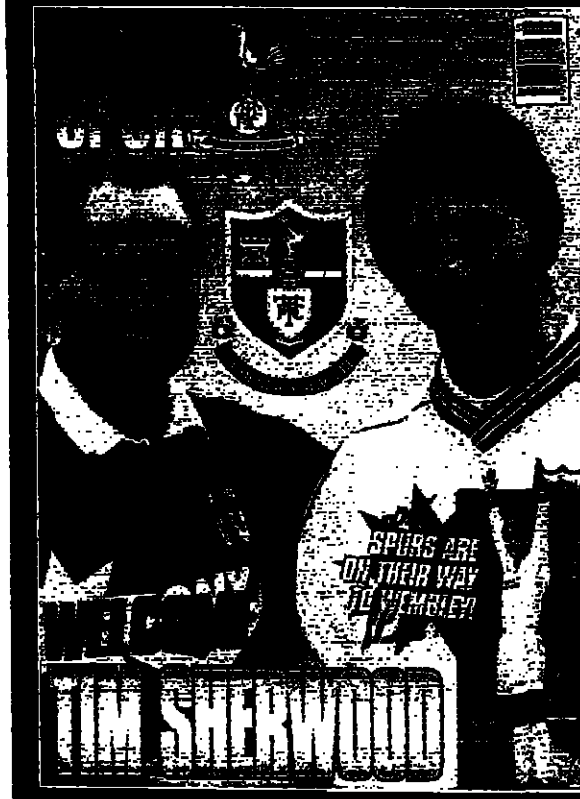
No lack of ambition there then, and the same goes for their football. But against Forest, or more precisely an inspired Mark Crossley in his first Premiership game for almost two years, Charlton were frustrated at every turn in their hunt for a fourth successive victory.

Among half a dozen top-drawer saves by the Welsh international goalkeeper was the one that kept out Neil Redfern's 69th-minute penalty, but Curdishley might just be pondering the wisdom of allowing such an important kick to be taken by a player who has admitted to feeling unsettled since his move south from Barnsley.

As for Forest, although it was an improved all-round defensive display, it will take a lot more than that to save them.

Charlton Athletic (3-5-2): Royce; Mills, Brown, Tier, Robinson, Redfern, Nicolson, Jones, Powell; Hunt (Mendonca, 72), Pringle. Substitutes not used: Bright, Barnes, Barnes, Patterson (18).
Nottingham Forest (3-5-2): Crossley; Louis-Jean, Edwards, Bonalide, Christie, Steele; Stone, Gerrill (Cusible, 78), Palmer; Van Hoogdonk, Darcheville (Shipperley, 62). Substitutes not used: Hieck, Wan, Bensch (18).
Referee: S Lodge (Barnsley).
Bookings: Charlton: Tier, Robinson, Patterson, Louis-Jean, Palmer, Darcheville.
Man of the match: Crossley.
Attendance: 20,007.

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Game Results 27/2/99.

This Saturday there were 9 score draws:

EVERTON	V WIMBLEDON	COLCHESTER	V READING
TOTTENHAM	V DERBY	BRENTFORD	V SCARBOROUGH
NORWICH	V SHEFF UTD.	ROCHDALE	V CARDIFF
WOLVES	V HUDDERSFIELD	MOTHERWELL	V DUNFERMLINE
CHESTERFIELD	V MAN. CITY		

*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches

Home wins (11): CLYDEBANK V GREENOCK MORTON.

Away wins (0): NONE.

No score draws (0): NONE.

Score draws (0): NONE.

6623 LUCKY WINNERS THIS WEEK
PAYOUTS FOR 8, 7, 6 AND 5 SCORE DRAWS
You can now play until 4.30pm every Saturday.

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT TO EACH WINNER
8 Score draws	2	£28,219
7 Score draws	34	£452.50
6 Score draws	701	£43.50
5 Score draws	5885	£5

Value of tickets entered this week: £347,489.

38% of sales contributed to prizes.

This week's contribution to good causes £76,000.

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To claim your prize, follow instructions on the back of your ticket. You must be 18 or over to play or claim a prize. In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in the central computer system shall prevail.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): **Filan:** McAteer, Pearce, Broomes, Davidson; Gillespie, Dunn (Croft, 64), Jansen (Davies, 51), Wilcox (Duff, 55); Blake, Ward. Substitutes not used: Taylor, Flowers (gk). **Referee:** S Dunn (Bristol). **Bookings:** West Ham: Foé. **Blackburn:** Pearce, McAteer. **Man of the match:** Berkovic. **Attendance:** 25,529.

BOOK
OF THE
WEEK

Chocolate, Blue And Gold - 50 years of Whitehaven Rugby League Club
by Harry Edgar
Open Rugby Nostalgia,
£14.99, hardback

BEFORE ONE match in the mid-1960s, Whitehaven foreshadowed much that has happened since by embracing the radical idea of pre-match entertainment by the locally legendary beat-group Rue and the Rockets. It was rated such a success that the club discussed a fully fledged festival, featuring another combo of some note, the Rolling Stones. It never happened.

Rue and the Rockets remain the musical high-water mark at the Recreation Ground and you could say that has been Whitehaven's life story. Although not averse to innovation - they were, for instance, the first club to carry a sponsor's name on their shirts - Whitehaven have never quite broken through into the big time.

If you want one individual to symbolise that, look no further than Vince Gribbin. In 1985, he made his Great Britain debut in a Test against France, a match that also marked the first full international appearance of one Shaun Edwards, and scored a spectacular try. But unlike Edwards and Ellery Hanley, who also played in that match, Gribbin did not go on to become rich and famous. He dropped out of the game for five years and was never the same player afterwards because it could not provide him with a secure enough living.

Given their relative isolation and almost permanent lack of funds, Whitehaven have done well to get to 50. They have had their highlights, of course, and were within a few minutes of going to Wembley in 1957, but they have always had to struggle. Their strength, as this admirable history clearly shows, comes from the depth of their roots in a community that still has a passion for the game and still produces more than its share of fine players.

Gathering enough of those players together in one place at one time to bring sustained success has always been frustratingly beyond the club, but the story of how they have survived and sometimes thrived remains an inspiring one. Harry Edgar, as a Whitehaven lad, has done an exemplary job in telling that story.

I look forward now to similarly colourful volumes; how about 'Myrtle, White and Flame' on Hunslet? Or 'Langerine, Black and White' on Blackpool Borough?

DAVE HADFIELD

TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 Football Memories, Brian Gamble (Norgate, £14.99).
- 2 Playing for Keeps - Michael Jordan and The World's Greatest Player (Random House USA, hardback, £21.50).
- 3 Twelve Giants: The Greatest All Stars (Random House USA, hardback, £10).
- 4 Inside in London: 'Square Ball' since 1985 (Square Ball, paperback, £5.95).
- 5 The Development of What Is Called Cricket, Volume 2: The Age of Modernisation, Hilary Beckett (Johns Press, paperback, £5.95).
- 6 100 Years of the FA Cup (The Football Book, paperback, £10.95).
- 7 100 Years of the FA Cup (The Football Book, paperback, £10.95).
- 8 100 Years of the FA Cup (The Football Book, paperback, £10.95).
- 9 The FA Cup - Celebrating 100 Years of International Football (The Football Book, paperback, £10.95).
- 10 100 Years of the FA Cup (The Football Book, paperback, £10.95).

The shadow of history haunts making of Inter's new dynasty



RICHARD WILLIAMS

United must beware of the uncertainty over Ronaldo's fitness being used as a psychological weapon

"WHISTLES AND silence" is how bullfight critics sum up an unsatisfactory encounter, and it will also serve as a description of the home fans' response to Internazionale's goalless draw with Juventus at San Siro on Saturday night. They had seen two young matadors, Inter's Nicola Ventola and Juve's Pippo Inzaghi, going up against two bulls, the veteran international goalkeepers Angelo Peruzzi and Gianluca Pagliuca, in the final stages, but unable to make the thrust that counted, and that would have redeemed a messy game. So the supporters dribbled out of the great stadium full of grumbles and a sense of foreboding.

Throughout the 1990s, Inter have been the great underachievers of Italian football. Since the last successful line-up, which was dominated by the German contingent of Lothar Matthäus, Jürgen Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme, whole squadrons of star players have come and gone, subsidised by the fortune of a president, Massimo Moratti, who is desperate to live up to his inheritance.

His father, Angelo Moratti, an oil magnate, was the power behind Inter's great era - the days when Heleno Herrera, the coach, and Giacinto Facchetti, his defensive icon, pursued victory through an unwavering adherence to the precepts of *catenaccio*. At La Pinetina, Inter's training centre in the countryside near Lake Como, a bust of Angelo stands in the foyer, a reminder to the present generation of the standards they are required to meet.

Inter's season may well be defined by what happens on Wednesday night at Old Trafford, when they meet another European champion club of the '60s, and one equally anxious to recapture a former glory. With so much at stake, we may well see the Italian club making a temporary return to Herrera's defensive formula. It's a prospect that might appear to contradict the philosophy of a club that is home to Ronaldo, Roberto Baggio, Ivan Zamorano and Yuri Djorkaeff - some of the world's greatest attacking players. But, as we saw in Milan on Saturday night, these are strange and worrying times at Inter: times of uncertainty on and off the field.

"Our problem," Aron Winter said at La Pinetina yesterday, "is that we are not a team like we have to be. A lot of things have happened."

"We've had a lot of very important players injured. Then we changed the coach, but only for four months, until the end of the season. All those things together. We are not very calm. When everything is calm, and our minds are just on what we have to do, we're going to do much better."

Inter's experienced Dutch midfielder player believed that both sides, not just his own, had taken the field on Saturday with other things on their mind. "I think so, because neither team was playing in a normal way. We were both thinking about our games on Wednesday, and everybody wanted to get out of the game without any injuries."

You wouldn't necessarily have known that from the way Fabio Galante, Inter's stopper, fouled Juan



Inter's Roberto Baggio (left) guides the ball past Zinedine Zidane, of Juventus, during Saturday's goalless Serie A stalemate at San Siro

Asport

Eduardo Esnaider, Juve's tough Argentinean centre-forward, three times in the first three minutes, or from the way the two No 14s, Diego Simeone and Didier Deschamps, constantly clattered into each other in midfield. But Winter was right, nevertheless. The game had an air of unreality. No one, neither the players nor the 80,000 crowd, seemed quite sure what the evening was all about, and the tensions and anxieties ruined what should have been a marvellous spectacle, given the talent on display.

First and second in Serie A last season, Juve and Inter stood eighth and sixth respectively after Saturday's match. Incredibly, not since 1941-42 had these two aristocratic clubs met in such reduced circumstances. Yet both were looking ahead, to their respective meetings with Olympiakos and Manchester United in the quarter-finals of the European Cup, the competition through which they achieved their greatest glory. So was this a mid-table slugfest or a meeting of potential European champions? Or was it, perhaps, more poignantly, a stage in the protracted convalescence of two great clubs who came into the current campaign anticipating triumphs yet were thrown into such confusion by long-term injuries to talismanic superstar forwards (Inter's Ronaldo, Juve's Del Piero) that both found it necessary to jettison their coaches in mid-season?

The state of Ronaldo's knees, which are suffering from chronic tendinitis caused by his phenomenal acceleration and equally remarkable ability to stop suddenly and change direction, has overshadowed all other news coming out of La Pinetina this season. His bizarre failure to perform in the World Cup final had already made him the object of an even more intense scrutiny than usual, but the attention paid to his physical injuries has completely unbalanced the team's preparations, graphically illustrating the potential danger of making such a massive investment - emotional and well as financial - in a single individual.

Yet Alex Ferguson will need to beware of the uncertainty over Ronaldo's fitness being used as a

psychological weapon. For the Brazilian is the shadow creeping up on Wednesday's fixture. He has played in only 16 of Inter's 38 matches this season, scoring seven goals.

At the same point last season, he had played in 31 games and scored 18 goals. But he took part in games on the training pitch last week, for the first time since he played for an hour in the 2-0 defeat at Bologna on 17 January. This weekend he went back indoors, to the gym and the swimming pool, to work with his personal physiotherapist, Nilou Petroni, and today he will train with the team once more before sitting down with Micrea Lucescu, Inter's coach, and the club doctor, Pietro Volpi, to decide whether he should travel to Manchester, and in what capacity.

"I'm a lot better," Ronaldo said last week, for the umpteenth time since the summer. "There's a lot less strain in the right knee. I've been training on the field, with the ball, for the first time in a month and a half. We've made mistakes this season."

"I've played some games with pain in the knee, which isn't a good thing to do. But now I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, although I don't want to make pre-

dictions, because we're taking it day by day."

His coach was reassuring. "He's worked well this week," Lucescu said. "We began by playing two against two, then three against three, four against four, and so on. He seemed fine, and he's got back his desire to play, which is the most important thing. Everything comes from that desire. We'll see."

The betting is that Lucescu will put Ronaldo on the bench on Wednesday night, without using him in the match, simply to remind Ferguson of what lies in store when

United travel to San Siro on 17 March. In between those two European Cup fixtures the Brazilian will play half the Serie A match at Bari next Sunday, and all being well, the whole of the Milan derby the Sunday after that.

How they need him. Without Ronaldo, Lucescu - who is keeping the coach's seat warm until the arrival of Marcello Lippi in the summer - deploys the attacking talents of the enthusiastic Zamorano, the frustrating Djorkaeff, and Baggio, who can still provide moments of genius. Seldom, however, do they look like members of the same forward line, a problem that plagued Inter long before this coach's arrival. His reserve striker is the 20-year-old Ventola, one for the future - as is the 19-year-old Andrea Pirlo, who arrived from Brescia this season. He is the current captain of the national under-21s, and has technical skills and a tactical sense that mark him out as Italy's long-awaited heir apparent to the playmaker's No 10 shirt of Gianni Rivera and Giancarlo Antognoni. But this, in Lucescu's mind, is not yet Pirlo's time, although he is regularly brought off the bench in the final stages.

In midfield are two hard-working ball-winners, the forceful Simeone and the energetic Benoit Cauchy, formerly of Marseilles. In the wide positions, Winter and Javier Zanetti will be required to look after David Beckham and Ryan Giggs, respectively. And at the back, Giuseppe Bergami, the 35-year-old club captain, will use the wisdom of a man who won a World Cup winner's medal at 18 to direct his cen-

tral fellow defenders, Galante and Francesco Colonnese, as they attempt to subdue Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole.

Dario Simic, currently Inter's most effective defender, is ineligible, having played in the Champions' League this season before his transfer from Croatia Zagreb. Taribo West, the powerful Nigerian centre back formerly with Auxerre, will probably be on the bench after returning from international duty at the weekend, but his recent arguments with Lucescu have set his career back, at least in Milan.

The last line of defence will be Pagliuca. The former international goalkeeper is now 33 years old, but when Inzaghi raced all alone into the Inter half with two minutes to go on Saturday night, the answering save was that of a man whose faculties are undimmed by the effects of his famous claim to have made love to 1,000 women (and that was a few years ago).

Inter, as Aron Winter confirmed, are not the team they ought to be. They are a collection of gifted individuals who occasionally manage to achieve moments of co-ordinated activity. When even that sporadic togetherness eludes them, their pride and commitment should not be underestimated. But they are less, far less, than the sum of their talents and reputations.

Maybe it is Massimo Moratti's destiny to be seen as that most equivocal of figures, a president whose raging ambition is a limiting rather than a liberating influence on the squad he has so painstakingly and generously assembled.

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TODAY

FOOTBALL: Leicester City face Leeds United in the Monday Premiership match for a fourth time since 1995. The match is the first of a double-header for Leicester, who will also play at home to Arsenal on Tuesday.

TUESDAY

FOOTBALL: The last night in the UEFA Cup for the French teams, three Italian and two Spanish. So don't fall for all that Premiership hype about us having the best league in the world. Domestic action centres around Tottenham v Southampton (7.45pm), and in Scotland, Celtic v Rangers (8.15pm).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL: The cream of Europe meet in the European Cup quarter-finals. After 31 years, surely it's time Manchester United won the trophy again. Expect Inter to be the first to go down, followed by Bayern Munich, then Real Madrid, and finally Juventus.

ford City are Barnsley's visitors. Sheffield Wednesday, having climbed impressively into the top half of the Premiership, entertain Wimbledon, whose status seems to be going nowhere despite not only prancing in the cup competitions.

THURSDAY

GOLF: The European tour gets back on track with the Portuguese Algarve Open at Penha, featuring a slightly less star-studded field than the one which graced last week's ultimately disappointing matchplay event in California.

FOOTBALL: The final night in the UEFA Cup for the Italian teams, three Italian and two Spanish. So don't fall for all that Premiership hype about us having the best league in the world. Domestic action centres around Tottenham v Southampton (7.45pm), and in Scotland, Celtic v Rangers (8.15pm).

FRIDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE: Wigan play Hull at Central Park as the Super League gets underway. Leeds and St Helens will be vying with Wigan for the title. Look out for promoted Wakefield and new boys Gateshead, many of whose players have been transported from Down Under.

ATHLETICS: World Indoor Championships begin at Helsinki, Japan with various British medal hopes from Colin Jackson (50 metres hurdles), Asafa Hansen (100 metres), and Jamie Smith (400 metres). Expect at least one gold.

CRICKET: The First Test between the West Indies - still reeling from their recent hammering in South Africa - and Australia in Port of Spain, Trinidad. If the visitors maintain the form they showed against England on the winter Ashes tour, the West Indian side could start to look terminal.

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL: The week's football feast draws to a close with two of the FA Cup quarter-finals, Barnsley v Tottenham, and Arsenal v Derby County. The other two - Manchester United v Chelsea, and Newcastle v Everton - are played and televised on Sunday.

RUGBY UNION: The Five Nations' Championship, England travel to Dublin where they will face the Irish. The visitors will have to play well above the standard they exhibited against the spirited Scots when they entered to lose their way after a bright start. The disappointing (and disappointed) Welsh make what looks a forlorn journey to Paris en route to collecting the wooden spoon. Scotland, with a Five Nations day off, entertain next season's Six Nations debutants, Italy, at Murrayfield.

BASEBALL: With the Caribbean Festival only 10 days away, most of the big stadiums are keeping their start under wraps but Doncaster have unveiled the nucleus of their team while retaining a decent bloke. This film follows the team through last season, which began badly for Darren Hill and Ralf Schumacher but picked up midway through

TODAY

14.45-15.00 BBC2 *Brands of Their Day* in response to those who looked at the 1950s as a time of conformity. The series is a tribute to the world-class players in the World Cup-winning side and one of them was Bobby Jones. Gareth Crooks takes him through his brilliant career.

19.00-22.15 Sky Sports 1 *Live Monday Night Football* Leicester City v Leeds United (kick-off 8pm). With Leeds pushing hard for a place in the UEFA Cup and Leicester City only a couple of wins above the relegation zone, there's a lot riding on tonight's match. Richard Vignery presents.

20.00-22.00 Sky Sports 3 *00.00-02.00* *Sky Sports 2* *International Tennis* *Australia v England*, First Test. Today's doubles.

TUESDAY

22.00-23.00 *ITV* *Dealing with Death* *Edie Jordan* achieved the herculean task of building from scratch a Formula One team while remaining a decent bloke. This film follows the team through last season, which began badly for Darren Hill and Ralf Schumacher but picked up midway through

00.35-04.00 CS Live and Dangerous

02.35-02.50 *Some TV With Me* *Wendy* *Janet* *Thelma* *and* *Maureen* *are* *back* *in* *the* *UK* *with* *their* *new* *album* *'The* *End* *of* *the* *World'* *on* *Monday* *night* *on* *Channel* *4*.

12.00-14.00 Sky Sports 2 *15.30-17.30* *Sky Sports 3* *Live* *Monday Night Football* *Leeds United v Leicester City* (kick-off 8pm). With Leeds pushing hard for a place in the UEFA Cup and Leicester City only a couple of wins above the relegation zone, there's a lot riding on tonight's match. Richard Vignery presents.

19.00-21.45 *ITV* *The Big Match* *and* *they* *don't* *come* *much* *more* *than* *the* *first* *leg* *of* *Manchester United v European Cup quarter-final against Internazionale. If* *Inter* *win* *the* *first* *leg* *in* *the* *UEFA Cup* *and* *Manchester United win the first leg in the UEFA Cup, then the likelihood of Ronaldo making an appearance is remote. With Ryan Giggs back for the people's favourites (only if, though, there's a real possibility of them taking a decent lead with them to Milan in a fortnight. Or am I being obscurely optimistic?)* *22.35-23.00* *Sky Sports 1* *Monday Night Football* *Leeds United v Leicester City* (kick-off 8pm).

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FRIDAY

14.45-15.30 BBC2 *Antidotes* *Day* *one* *of* *the* *world* *indoor* *championships* *from* *Japan* *22.00-23.10* *ITV* *(times* *may* *slightly* *change* *according* *to* *coverage* *of* *the* *World* *Cup* *and* *the* *new* *Formula* *One* *season* *22.00-23.00* *Sky Sports 3* *Live* *Monday Night Football* *Leeds United v Leicester City* (kick-off 8pm).

19.00-21.45 *ITV* *The Big Match* *and* *they* *don't* *come* *much* *more* *than* *the* *first* *leg* *of* *Manchester United v European Cup quarter-final against Internazionale. If* *Inter* *win* *the* *first* *leg* *in* *the* *UEFA Cup* *and* *Manchester United win the first leg in the UEFA Cup, then the likelihood of Ronaldo making an appearance is remote. With Ryan Giggs back for the people's favourites (only if, though, there's a real possibility of them taking a decent lead with them to Milan in a fortnight. Or am I being obscurely optimistic?)* *22.35-23.00* *Sky Sports 1* *Monday Night Football* *Leeds United v Leicester City* (kick-off 8pm).

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12.00-12.30 C4 Board Stupid

12.15-12.30 BBC1 *Grandstand* *including* *Football* *from* *France* *in* *Wales* *and* *England* *in* *the* *Five* *Nations* *12.30-13.00* *ITV* *On the Ball* *with* *Barry* *Venton* *and* *Gaby* *Yorke* *13.00-13.30* *Sky Sports 3* *Live* *Monday Night Football* *Leeds United v Leicester City* (kick-off 8pm).

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SPORT

Roper's decisive reflexes

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Warrington 34
Halifax 4

A SMART piece of improvisation by Jon Roper pointed Warrington in the direction of a convincing Silk Cut Challenge Cup victory that promises better times over the season as a whole. Roper, who missed most of last season with a broken leg and was switched to the unfamiliar position of loose forward for yesterday's tie at Wilderspool, took a quick tap penalty near his own line 13 minutes into the second half.

The young Cumbrian raced 85 yards to score the try that confirmed Warrington's superiority and ensured that they would be progressing to the quarter-finals.

"I just looked up and saw the space ahead of me," Roper said. "Halifax were arguing with the referee and I took advantage."

His coach, Darryl van de Velde, called it: "A try out of nothing and the turning point of the match."

Once it had been scored, it was a question of how many Warrington would win by.

The only surprise was that it had taken Warrington so long to secure a decisive lead. Ahead after Steve McCurrie charged down Gavin Clinch's kick in the fifth minute and Mark Forster took Lee Briers' pass for the first try, they gave Halifax absolutely nothing in defence and only failed to score further tries through their own impatience.

Three penalties from Briers, balanced by two from Graham Holroyd, gave them a modest six-point lead until Roper struck. Two more goals from Briers stretched the lead before a comedy of errors took them out of Halifax's sight.

Scott Wilson kicked ahead and Jamie Bloem foolishly tried to trap the ball rather than catch it. Warrington's big close season signing, Alan Hunte, could have gone straight into score if he had not lost his footing, but he accepted his second chance when Damien Gibson became the second Halifax player to make a mess of the loose ball.



Halifax's Martin Moana gets to grips with Warrington's Simon Gillies in the Challenge Cup yesterday

Ben Duffy

Halifax had not helped themselves with their indiscipline - Gary Mercer had only just returned from the sin-bin when Roper scored his pivotal try - and they were given a real runaround in the last seven minutes.

Toa Kohe-Love, another who missed much of last season, scored one try when the ball was moved direct from the scrum and Lee

Penny rounded it off after some more slick handling from a side which has grown in confidence during the winter.

Roper's explanation is that, with their long-term financial problems resolved, Warrington are now able to concentrate on rugby. If they can continue to do so, this performance illustrated that they will be a force to be reckoned with.

"I was very pleased with our defence," Van de Velde said. "That was where the football game was won. Clinch pushes them around the field and we knew we had to get tight on him."

Warrington did that so effectively that Clinch has rarely had a more anonymous game since coming to England. Now Warrington have to do it all over again; their first Super

League fixture of a season that suddenly promises so much more than last is at Halifax next week.

Warrington: Perry, Roach, Kohe-Love, Hunte, Forster, Wilson, Briers, Hilton, Farrar, Nudley, McCurrie, Gillies, Roper. Substitutes used: Hanger, Chambers, Hainwright, Knott, Halliwell, Holroyd, Bloem, Gibson, Craig, Bouveng, Chester, Clinch, Broadbent, Rowley, Skerrett, Marshall, Gillespie, Mercer, Sebastiao, Smith, Cardiss, Clark, Moana. Referee: R Smith (Castleford).

Results and tables, page 11

ACTION REPLAY

Busby's marvels
light up the night

Thirty-three years ago Manchester United produced one of the most complete displays ever seen in European competition, against Benfica, although they were then to lose 2-1 in the semi-finals against Partizan Belgrade. Desmond Hackett was in Lisbon, reporting for the Daily Express

WEDNESDAY
9
MARCH
1966

CALL THEM Magnificent United, the 11 defiant men of Manchester who tonight made us proud of British football as they pitilessly thrashed Benfica out of the European Cup. In the first 14 unforgettable minutes, United shattered the bemused Eagles of Portugal with three goals of unforgettable glory.

All the goals were composed with a glowing skill and bravely underlined manager Matt Busby's pre-match insistence: "We will play fighting football."

Manchester United did that very thing with moving gallantry until their red shirts appeared to tear through the white barricade of Benfica's packed defence like so many scarlet rockets.

Their magnificence further illuminated Lisbon's fantastic Stadium of Light. Men of lesser courage than United could well have been terrified by the noise rolling down thunderously from the towering galleries in this arena.

Busby's marvels, with superb confidence, ignored the surroundings and scored within six minutes. The crowd who had laughed at the Beatle-cut hair of George Best groaned as United's 19-year-old winger, the smallest man on the field, scored. He met a 35-yard free-kick from Tony Dunne at the far post and outleaped the soaring giants of Benfica to thrash the ball into the net.

The tiny band of Manchester supporters waved their Union Jacks and roared their salute through the Portuguese silence.

And they cheered even more, minutes later, as United built their aggregate lead to 5-2.

The Portuguese snarled in

BY DESMOND HACKETT
in Lisbon

Benfica 1
Manchester United 5
Manchester United win 8-3 on aggregate

anger as Harry Gregg took a powerful kick upfield to David Herd, who slipped the ball through to Best and this menacing kid again flicked the ball into the corner of the goal.

After 14 minutes the Manchester fans were chanting: "Easy, easy" for the sound reason that United had scored their third goal. It came from a move of rare splendour, brilliantly composed by Denis Law, Herd and Best, which gave Law a chance to lash the ball gleefully into goal.

John Connolly has seldom played with such authority. And Best so bedevilled the muscular men of Benfica that finally the crowd were compelled to applaud his brilliance and his impudence.

Seven minutes after half-time came a setback for United. Benfica swarmed into the attack and Shay Brennan, trying to pass back to Gregg, slid the ball into his own net. But with 10 minutes to go United were back with a four-goal aggregate lead.

Pat Crerand came storming into the Portuguese penalty area and as the ball came to him, he rocketed it past Pereira.

With two minutes left Bobby Charlton also scored. What a night. What a triumph for Matt Busby.

Benfica: Costa Pereira; Gernon, Cruz, Colina, Germano Ferreira, Pinto, Silva Augusto, Eusebio, Torres, Jose Augusto, Simone. Manchester United: Gregg, Brennan, Dunne, Crerand, Foulkes, Soles, Best, Law, Charlton, Herd, Connolly.

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COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Keith Waterhouse is a man of parts – a writer, wit, bon viveur and guardian of the English language. So what to do when he decides you were meant for each other? Why, sort out the wedding list, naturally

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man's face. The image is heavily shadowed, with the right side of the face (viewer's left) being much darker than the left side (viewer's right). The man has dark hair, a prominent nose, and a somber expression. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality, similar to a photocopy or a high-contrast photograph.

'Bing-Bong!' opens at The Gateway Theatre, Chester on Friday 5 March. Box Office: 01244 340392

He orders a glass of champagne. Then another. Then another. I tell him I'd heard that going to lunch with him was known as "doing a Captain Oates" because people say "I may be some time", then don't reappear until a week on Thursday. "That's greatly exaggerated," he replies, crossly. "If someone is having lunch with me they were told not to bother coming back in the afternoon." He lists "lunch" as his only recreation in *Who's Who*. What's the perfect lunch, Keith? "One with a beautiful woman you get to sleep with afterwards." Well, that's me off the hook at least. Although, that said, people have found that the more they drink, the less I look like Olive. I have even been known, over the years, to score quite successfully in this way.

Keith says he is in rude health, though. He hasn't, he says, ever once had to have a morning off from writing owing to illness - he works for four hours

I note, though, that he has quite a bad cough. Hack, hack, it goes. "I've had it ever since I gave up smoking 20 years ago," he explains. Are you rich, Keith? "Yes." You know, I've always found myself inexplicably drawn to rich old men with bad coughs. Shall we get married? "OK. But, I should warn you,

I do think that, as a writer, he is horribly underrated. Although originally a journalist, who still writes a twice-weekly column for the *Daily Mail*, he has also written some fine books (including that great classic, *Billy Liar*), film scripts (*Billy Liar*, *Whistle Down the Wind*, *A Kind of Loving*, *Turn of Mind* for Alfred Hitchcock, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*) and plays – Jeffrey Bernard is *Ummell* and, now, *Bing-Bong!*, a comedy about the



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Race and the police

Sir: Among the Lawrence report recommendations, I had hoped to see a review of the powers of the police, particularly stop and search powers, for which there appears to be evidence that these are being regularly abused. Of all the malign influences on police/minority community relations, these are among the most significant.

Given the action that had to be taken not all that long ago to get rid of the old "sus" law, mainly because it aroused perceptions of racist abuse by the police, it is small wonder that stop and search has taken its place for members of minority communities. It must now be urgent to examine how beneficial the powers have been in deterring and suppressing crime, and to consider whether such benefits are sufficiently substantial to outweigh the highly negative effects which the daily abuse of these powers has had on the health of our society.

That the police should have powers to stop and search anyone they see whenever they see fit is repellent to those who value our civil liberties.

JOHN L Y SANDERS
Bideford, Devon

Sir: When Jim Callaghan decided that the police should be excluded from the scope of race relations legislation, that inevitably sent a signal to the police that they were not meant to take race relations seriously.

The Home Secretary is the police authority for the Metropolitan Police district, yet holders of that office are speaking as if they have no personal responsibility for the overall conduct of the Met. Given their general power "to give directions to the Commissioner as to the operational control of the Metropolitan Police", Callaghan's successors could have instructed the Commissioner to tell his officers to behave as if the Race Relations legislation did apply to them - and to cooperate fully with public inquiries.

Did Jack Straw and his predecessors do that? If not, why not?
ERIC THOMPSON
London NW2

Sir: You say that if Sir Paul Condon were "hounded from office it might engender a defensive, bunker mentality in police cautions" ("This report places a responsibility on the whole nation", 25 February). From what I have observed both during and since the publication of the Lawrence report this mentality already exists and is in full working order.

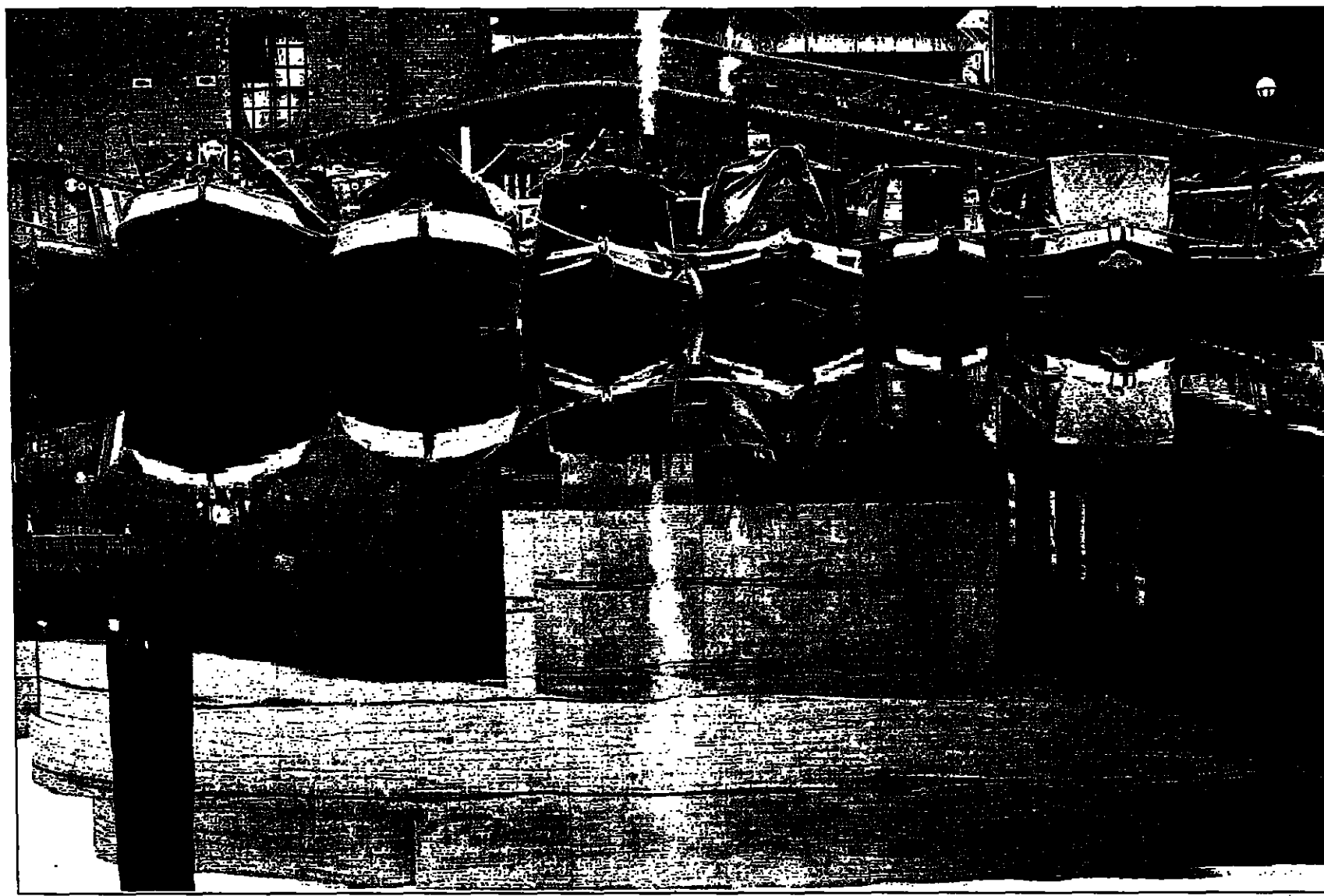
We have further evidence of police incompetence when we hear of the changing of the camera to a dummy one overlooking the commemorative plaque to Stephen's death, thus allowing the vandals responsible for the last atrocity to escape justice.
G HEADLEY
Walsley, South Yorkshire

Sir: Stephen Lawrence's fine character and the fortitude of his remarkable parents make his murder all the more tragic and senseless.

Were his parents not so remarkable, had perhaps Stephen previously committed some mild misdemeanour, would we be so filled with shame and reforming zeal?

The ultimate racist affront is that black people must prove exceptional goodness before the nation recognises their simple right to equality.
DR JAMES HAWTHORNE
Crossgar, Co Down
The writer is a member of the Commission for Racial Equality, Northern Ireland

Sir: It is right that our national newspapers have dedicated much of their recent reporting to the tragic murder of Stephen Lawrence and the implications that this case must have for tackling racial discrimination both



Canals of Birmingham No 1: Narrowboats in Gas Street Basin rear up out of reflections of city centre buildings

Andy Pat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

within public institutions and society as a whole.

However, at this crucial juncture it concerns me deeply that the unwarranted seizure of the London lawyer to the five Britons on trial in the Yemen has received cursory attention in the press.

One cannot help but compare the Yemeni case to the furore and media frenzy that surrounded the trial of "our" two British nurses in Saudi Arabia, faced with the death penalty and also questioned under "coercive" circumstances. There is little doubt that there has been a difference between official responses, media coverage, and consequently public outcry in these two cases.
SUZY NICHOLS
London SW1

Sir: In the copious debate on Macpherson's report I have seen little discussion of how the situation might have developed in a more democratic and less damaging way if the Metropolitan Police had been supervised, like other forces in the country, by a Police Authority containing elected representatives of the community.

One wonders if such democratic arrangements would have helped avert the Lawrence disaster.
TREVOR J BROWN
Neubury, Berkshire

Sir: Your coverage of the remarkable Macpherson Report and reactions to it is an example of the best in British journalism.

In the light of all that we now know, one must wonder in what way the publication four days earlier of extracts from a leaked copy of the report was intended to serve the public interest.
DONALD MAITLAND
Limpey Stoke, Wiltshire

Sir: Following the publication of the Lawrence report do we have a new verb - to Condon - to deny responsibility?
A DAVIES
Cheltenham, Gloucester

Transplant concern

Sir: It is exactly 20 years since my kidney transplant operation. Sadly the transplant failed after 15 healthy years and I am now back on dialysis and on the waiting list for another transplant.

Thank goodness for the existence of sensible doctors such as Dr Andrew Robinson (letter, 24 February).

In 1986 I participated in a TV debate with, among others, Dr David Hill (letter, 22 February) who was then, as now, getting publicity for his strange and unorthodox views on brain death. The brain-death criteria were established in 1976 because advances in medicine necessitated a new definition. It was no longer sufficient to link death with the heart stopping.

Before organs are taken from a donor by the transplant team a completely separate team of

doctors, who are responsible for the care of their patient, have assured themselves that the brain-death criteria have been met. There is no conflict of interest and it has frequently been said that a patient being considered as a potential donor will, if anything, receive even better attention than a patient who is not.

Dr Hill says the patient remains on life-support whilst organs are taken. He does not. He remains on support but is dead. The support takes over temporarily some of the functions of the once live brain.

Relatives of donors do not deserve to have concerns raised about the certainty of the death of their loved ones. I know that no patient would wish to receive a transplant under questionable circumstances.
DAVID BENJOLIE
Exeter, Devon

The writer is a past chairman of the National Kidney Federation

Sir: Dr Andrew Robinson appears to be unaware of recent developments (in Japan and Brazil particularly) which suggest that some patients declared "brain dead" less than a day after severe head injury may indeed have a chance of recovery if optimally treated (with moderate hypothermia and barbiturates) instead of being regarded as organ donors at too early a stage.

The British tests are less comprehensive and do not suffice to diagnose brain death but only a neurological syndrome inaccurately described as "brain-stem death". That diagnosis is made when some reflexes with pathways through the brain stem are absent and the brain stem respiratory centre does not respond to higher than normal carbon dioxide tensions in the blood.

The brain stem cardiovascular centres are not tested and will

often be found to be still working.

The chief justification for use of that syndrome as a basis for certifying death seems to have been the oft-repeated claim that its diagnosis is inevitably followed by true death within a few days. This is simply not true. Pregnant women pronounced "brain dead" or "brain-stem dead" have been kept alive for weeks so that their babies might be viable at birth.

The claim that "the diagnosis of brain-stem death excludes the possibility of any form of conscious survival" has no sound scientific basis. Consciousness is not understood. Elements in a patient's brain may still be working when he is pronounced "brain-stem dead". Responses to the trauma of organ "harvesting" suggest that they are - and this is what worries anaesthetists such as Drs Hill and Urquhart.
DAVID W EVANS MD FRCP
Cambridge

TB jab lottery

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan highlights the concern about tuberculosis (TB) again becoming a significant threat to public health ("The crime of contagion", 24 February).

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Liam Donaldson, in his review of infectious disease control, must look at the prevention of TB as well as measures to contain any contagion. Some health authorities have stopped providing TB inoculations in schools because of budget constraints.

Confining people to prevent them infecting others is expensive and not foolproof. TB inoculations are cost-effective and potentially life-saving. Can the NHS think about the long-term public health requirements from a national perspective rather than leave the possibility of school children getting such an important inoculation to the chance of what their postcode happens to be. The Rev MIKE WILLIAMS
Chief Executive
Radcliffe Infirmary NHS Trust
Oxford

IN BRIEF

wildlife. There is a 400-square-mile area in southern England where 99 per cent of naturally occurring species have already been wiped out: it's called London. What's the problem?
R SMUGRAVE
Durham

Sir: The article "Steroids found in herbal medicine" (25 January) raises important issues with regard to the regulation of herbal medicine. The use of steroids in herbal creams is not only illegal, it is also unethical and totally irresponsible. The Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine (RCHM), which is the largest UK register of Chinese herbal practitioners, has very clear guidelines, and all members are already forbidden to use this type of medication.

Until state registration, any member of the public can rest

assured that all RCHM members are highly trained and obliged to practice within stringent safety guidelines. WADSWORTH CHURCHILL
BMUS BAC DipChM MBAC
MRCHM
London N10

Sir: Yes - "it's the physics, stupid!" (letter, 27 February). But who's splitting hairs?

The weight of the vehicle is indeed the gravitational pull of the nearest large "mass" (the earth) on the mass of the vehicle. But as this depends on the distance between the two bodies, unless the driver of the vehicle plans to go to take it to the top of Everest, or more significantly, to the moon, the weight and the mass are virtually the same. So, except for Brussels' urge to be pedantic, why mess about with "maximum laden weight"?
HOWARD FULLER
Stevenston, Oxfordshire

Here's your chance to put religion into the millennium

THE TROUBLE with the millennium celebration, according to all the churches, is that it will have no religious content. Indeed, last week Cardinal Basil Hume pleaded with us all to spend the last moments of the old century saying a prayer.

Well, it is not normally this column's task to give out spiritual advice, but one hates to ignore a Cardinal in distress, so today I am bringing you a selection of prayers which are suitable for use at the end of the millennium. Please cut them out and keep them until the end of the year.

Prayers for the millennium
For those who have still not made up their mind how to spend the turn of the millennium
O Lord, we beg Thee now to look down upon those foolish virgins

who have still not made fitting arrangements to celebrate the two thousandth birthday of Thy son, and pray that there may be hotel rooms available in outlying parts of New Zealand or Fiji or at least close enough to the International Date Line to satisfy Thee. Failing which, that they may be happy to sit in their lonely bed-sitting-rooms and watch TV, if they can handle the sight of people such as Alan Titchmarsh and Michael Parkinson ushering in a new epoch. Amen.

For those affected by the millennium bug
O Lord, as this old millennium draws to a close and computers are about to go on the blink, or not as the case may be, look down now upon lift operators everywhere, and jet pilots and hospital man-

agers and everyone who depends for their very life on computerised systems, and make sure that these vital systems do not go do not go do not go do not go THERE HAS BEEN AN ERROR PLEASE REFER TO INSTRUCTIONS OR RING HELPLINE No. just joking, O Lord! Amen.

For the Millennium Dome and all those who sail in it
O Lord, we pray that Thou wilt look down upon this palace built to Thy glory in Greenwich and that what up to now has been a bit of a national joke will totally surprise all the faint-hearted people and the wet blankets who predicted it to be a total failure and that it will turn out to be a raging success like other erstwhile national jokes such as Channel 4, the National Lottery,



MILES KINGSTON
O Lord, we pray Thou wilt look down upon this palace built to Thy glory in Greenwich...

Virgin Trains. Well, maybe not Virgin Trains, but then maybe in view of the Blessed Virgin Mary it was

tempting Thy wrath to name it Virgin Trains in the first place. Over and out, Amen.

A prayer for all those who have to work on the night of the millennium
such as vets and ambulance drivers and sous-chefs in kitchens where the chef has taken the night off and those who have to go out in all sorts of weather to help their fellow men such as AA drivers and those who mend video sets that have gone on the blink
O Lord, make sure at least that they get outrageously well paid for the evening's work. Amen.

For journalists working at the millennium's end
O Lord, forasmuch as many of Thy servants are hard-working journalists out and about on the last

night of the century trying to find some story, any story, lead them to ancient pensioners born in 1899 and thus about to enter their third century and to babies who are first to be born in AD2000 and to seeming miracles, and then write up their accounts without inventing more than is strictly necessary. Amen.

For Peter Mandelson
O Lord, whereas the Millennium Dome was going to be Thy servant Peter's crowning moment of glory and now all the credit has gone to other people, and things have rather fallen in upon his head, look down upon him now, we pray, and ensure that his political rehabilitation proceeds steadily, but not that fast. In fact take Thy time about it, O Lord, place it upon Thy back-burner for a while longer. Amen.

A prayer for Ludovic Kennedy and all atheists

O Lord, look down now on Thy faithless servant Ludovic Kennedy and all such as do not believe in Thee and do not take this millennium seriously except as a kind of secular party and piss-up, and we beseech Thee now to appear in Ludovic Kennedy's sitting-room towards midnight, and say loudly: "This is something of a surprise for thee, O Ludovic, in that I am the Lord God Almighty in whom thou dost not believe, yet here I am in thy living-room, don't think much of the curtains incidentally, so the atheist that has sustained thee all these years looks a bit of a had bet now, and what have you got to say to that, O Ludo, speak up I can't hear thee, yes, thou can grovel if thou likest?" Amen.

THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UKCome on, Mr Blair:
call a referendum
on the euro now

TONY BLAIR said last week that his Government intended to join the single European currency provided that the conditions were right. Fudge and mudge, as David Owen once famously said. "Both intention and conditions are genuine," the Prime Minister declared. But this is simply not true. The intention is genuine, but the conditions are not. It has been plain since long before he became Prime Minister both that Mr Blair would like Britain to join the euro, and that he began tiptoeing flat out towards that aim the moment he entered Downing Street.

As a political tactician, he has been clever to the point of brilliance. The pro-European Tory big beasts are purring in his lap. Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have been round to Downing Street for little chats – much to the fury of William Hague, who is now forced into making veiled threats against them. Chris Patten is over in Northern Ireland reforming the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The smaller Tory cats are going to run candidates against Mr Hague's party in the European elections this summer.

And the forces opposed to the euro are so deeply divided that today sees the launch of David Owen's "Not Yet" campaign, which cannot bring itself to say what it really thinks – which is that it hopes Britain will be able to get away with never joining. It is thus in the same quagmire of not liking the euro yet not wanting to rule it out absolutely in which Mr Hague flounders.

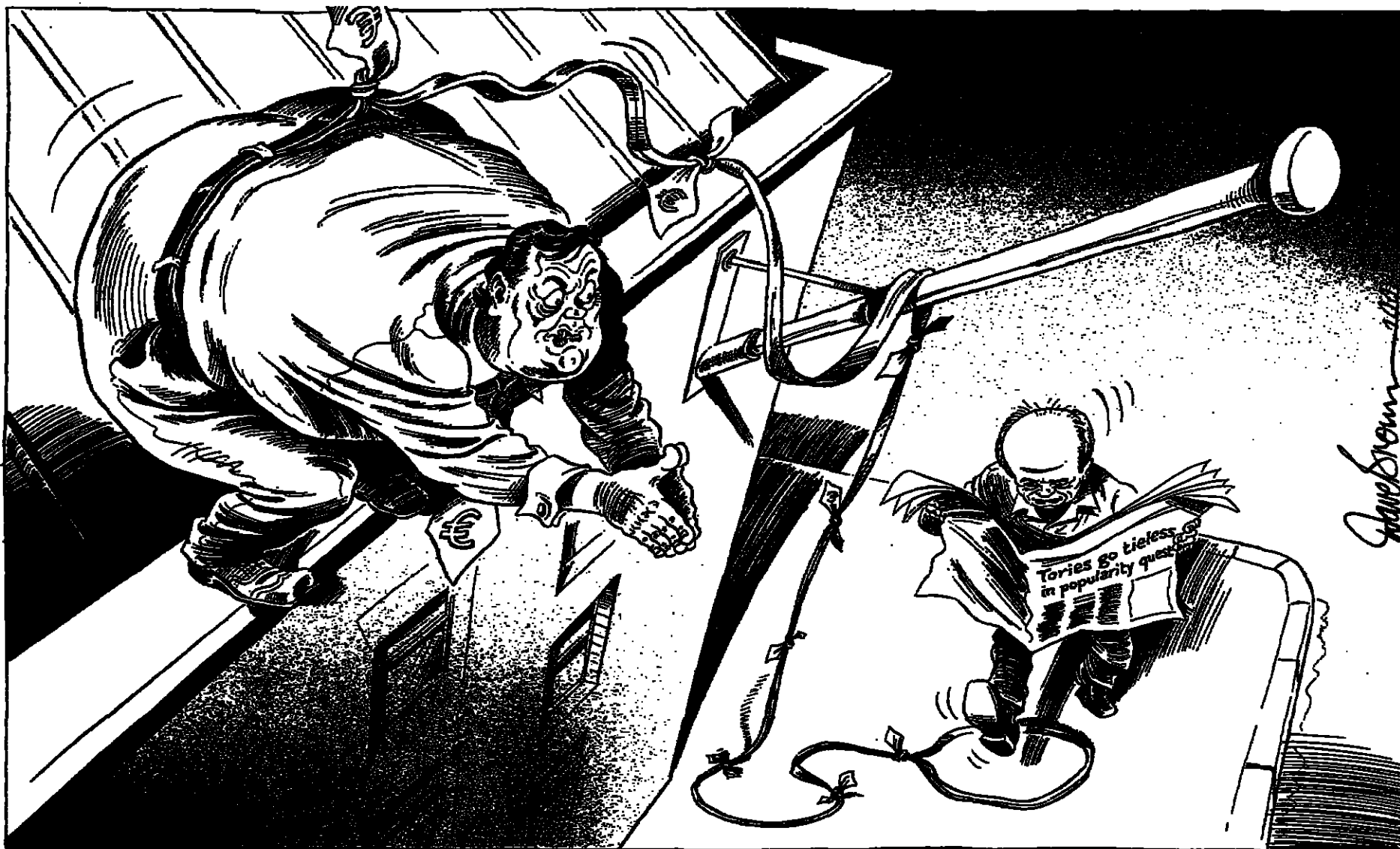
Dr Owen's main contribution to British politics has been to be right about everything at the wrong time, and we can only admire the judgement of those who have decided to give his latest venture a wide berth.

Mr Blair knows that to declare definitively for the euro would allow his opponents to unite. But he is going to declare, so he should do so now. Otherwise the gap between his real position, which everyone knows, and the position he maintains in public, will damage his credibility.

The weakest part of Mr Blair's statement last week was his attempt to justify spending public money on preparations for converting to the euro – a conversion that cannot happen until the public has voted for it. He simply pretended that this was prudential planning for a contingent event; but a referendum is not an act of God; it is decided by an Act of Parliament.

So we have to ask, again, why can we not have the referendum before the next election, rather than afterwards? If the Government continues to postpone the referendum, and the official declaration in favour of the euro that must precede it, its actions will still be seen as trying to bounce the people into a "Yes" vote. Let us have honesty and clarity on both sides of the argument, and resolve this intractable issue once and for all.

Last week, the Prime Minister said that in order to "give



some greater certainty to business and the country", he was making clear that the Government would not make a decision "in this Parliament" on whether or not to recommend joining the euro. But it is precisely that refusal to decide that causes such uncertainty. And it is a decision that has already been made in principle – it is just the timing that has not been settled.

That, in turn, will be decided when Mr Blair thinks he can win a "Yes" vote, while "sustainable convergence" of the British and European economies acts as the cover story. But we are already moving rapidly to a situation where the referendum can be won.

In the 1975 referendum on EEC membership, public opinion moved within months from 2-to-1 against to 2-to-1 in favour of Europe. As we report today, Vauxhall workers want to be paid in euros so they can benefit from cheaper mortgages. After the election, circumstances may not be so favourable. Move up another gear, Mr Blair: declare for the euro, set a date for joining in 2002 or 2003, and call the referendum.

Older teachers have a
place in the classroom

THERE ARE 15,000 unemployed teachers in this country looking for a job, and many of them are finding it difficult because they are too old; schools prefer to hire cheap new graduates at the bottom of the pay scale. By coincidence, 15,000 just happens to be the number alighted on by Chris Woodhead, the chief schools inspector, as his guess at how many teachers are so useless that they ought to be sacked. Clearly, life is not so simple that all that needs to be done is to swap one group of teachers for the other. But there are two points which David Blunkett ought to note.

One is that it can be well worth paying more for older teachers, and the education secretary ought to offer "top-ups" for the salaries of good people returning to the profession. A long-term way needs to be found to reward good teach-

ers, who will often be older, without giving incentives to schools to hire cheap ones. The second point is that the salary structure for teachers is too rigid; some older teachers might be prepared to work for less than the fixed point on the scale based on their experience, especially if they were offered flexible hours. More experienced teachers can spell, and some of them can even teach. Mr Blunkett should do more to get them back into our classrooms.

Oh, to be in England

WHEN ROBERT Browning wrote from Italian exile in praise of springtime in England, he was referring to the month of April, not March. But the season has come earlier than ever in this, the last year of the 20th century. As cheery carpets of crocuses appear in Kew Gardens, there are reasons to be glad about global warming. But there is a downside. Forget the cuckoo. Do we hear the buzz of the first bluebottle of spring?

The charismatic Dr Owen is back
– but he won't stop the euro

LIKE A matinee idol returning by popular demand, David Owen is back.

Today the forces of opposition to the single currency unleash their not-so-secret weapon, the last Labour foreign secretary before Robin Cook, the man who led the Social Democratic Party when it came closest to eclipsing the party he had left, and one of the most effortlessly charismatic politicians of his generation.

Lord Owen's role as the figurehead of the first sensible-looking organisation dedicated to campaigning against the euro is an event of genuine interest, which should help to raise the level of argument about whether Britain should join EMU.

He is not now, he firmly told Sir David Frost yesterday morning, a politician. There are those who would say that he never was, in the sense of making the necessary compromises and alliances that are the norm of a conventional political career. But Owen was the shooting star of the decade from 1977, when Jim Callaghan made him foreign secretary, until 1987, when he took a sledgehammer to the fragile structure of the alliance as a potent third force in British politics by refusing to accept a merger between the SDP and the Liberals. He was also one of the first big figures on the centre and left to see that opposition to Conservatism could recover without recognising and accepting some of what Margaret Thatcher had achieved.

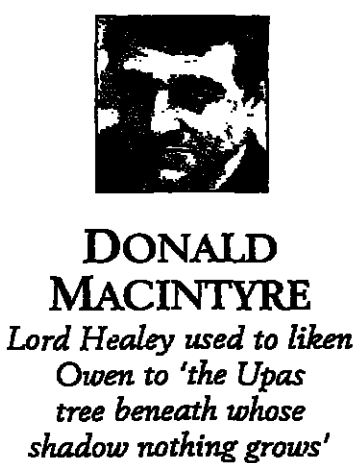
Which makes his entry into the lists of the single currency debate especially intriguing. For there must have been times when Owen will have idly

wondered why it is that his old adversary within the SDP, Lord Jenkins, and not himself, has emerged as the Prime Minister's mentor, guide and friend. Has Tony Blair not inherited much of Owen's famously "tough but tender" approach to the welfare state? Has Blair not made the Labour Party fit for those famous virgin party members of the SDP to inhabit? Is the Third Way not perilously close to Owen's "social market"?

It would nevertheless be a serious mistake to write off Owen's emergence, six days after Tony Blair took on the Eurosceptic press, ratcheting up the Government's commitment to joining a successful euro, as some petulant response to the fact that the Prime Minister seems to be more Jenkins's Dauphin than Owen's. Not only did Owen go out of his way to be nice about Blair in his television interview yesterday – admitting tantalisingly that he had been "tempted" to join New Labour – but his attitude on the single currency is more consistent than it looks.

It will be said that opposition to the euro is an odd stance for one of the Gang of Four – for whom Labour's anti-EEC positioning, along with non-nuclear defence policy and the Bennite handover to the trade unions and activists, was the burning issue of the day – or for a man who performed with real distinction as the EU's man working alongside Cyrus Vance in the Balkans during the Major years.

Owen is not, as he was at pains to make clear yesterday, a narrow-minded nationalist, but a European. Nevertheless, he was never as com-



DONALD MACINTYRE
Lord Healey used to liken Owen to 'the Upas tree beneath whose shadow nothing grows'

munautaire as his three colleagues in the Gang. His memoirs make clear, by their disdain for the "federalist" officials in the Foreign Office, and – equally, in his judgement, "federalist" – politicians with whom they felt most sympathy, including Jenkins and Edward Heath, that he had always deeply distrusted the "zealots" for the European Community.

He was therefore something of an odd man out among the Gang of Four in this respect. So, in limited ways, are his two colleagues in the cross-party alliance over which he presides. Lord Healey was at variance with many on the right of the Labour Party (though not, it is fair to say, with Lord Callaghan or their mentor Hugh Gaitskell), but also with some of those leading politicians, who like him, saw front-line service in the Second World

War and who were persuaded, like most Continental politicians, that only a measure of integration could guarantee that a European war would not be repeated. The Anglo beach-master Healey was not as reliably pro-European as – say – the tank commander William Whitelaw. And Lord Prior, as he acknowledged yesterday, effectively breaks with his comrades in patrician liberal Toryism by becoming the Conservative on Owen's "New Europe" platform.

With that consistency goes a certain forgivable disingenuousness. Owen and Healey, in other words, are a little more viscerally and permanently opposed to the integrationist consequences of monetary union than Owen, all sweet reason yesterday, was prepared to admit.

The main consequence of their campaign may well be to make the argument less purely economic and more political, as Tony Blair has always known it will partly be. Political not in the sense of sterile, backward-looking rhetoric about "a thousand years of history", but about how Britain best exercises influence as a modern medium-sized power.

Immediately, the Owenite proposition is that the United Kingdom can have the best of EU membership – membership of the internal market – without having to suffer what today's New Europe document is calling the "compulsory and irrevocable alignment of economic and social policies with continental Europe".

This magisterially ignores the exact converse problem: that outside EMU, Britain will be less able to

influence economic and social policies to which it will still be bound by EU membership, or to see enacted the economic and political reform that it rightly wants.

The second and larger question that has been mainly ignored by the New Europe document is whether Britain's global influence will be best enhanced by closer engagement with Europe, or by hankering after an obsolete view of the special relationship with the United States.

The purpose of the "New Europe" movement is to keep public opinion sufficiently hostile to prevent the Prime Minister risking a referendum. However, last week's Mori poll for *The Times* shows that those "persuadable" in favour of EMU – including some readers of the unrelentingly hostile *Sun* – are growing in number. Now that the Prime Minister has shown he is ready to consider his enormous mandate a greater source of strength than the acquiescence of the Eurosceptic press, and to give a lead, others – as Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine have shown – will surely follow.

Owen was at his most benign and attractive in his breakfast television interview with Sir David yesterday. It was hard to remember what his new comrade Lord Healey used to say of him – in a term possibly borrowed from Lord Jenkins – that he was like the "Upas tree beneath whose shadow nothing grows".

Lord Owen will fight a good fight, but the probability must be that he will find himself on the wrong side of history once again.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The suspects can no longer hide behind their doors. Everyone can see who they are."
Doreen Lawrence,
mother of the late Stephen Lawrence

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I pay the schoolmaster, but 'tis the schoolboys who educate my son."
Ralph Waldo Emerson,
American humorist

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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday press digest the implications
of the Macpherson report

SOME PEOPLE may feel it is downright offensive to focus at all on whites in the aftermath of the Lawrence inquiry. I can't see how things will ever improve unless we face the fact

that, although life is worst in modern Britain for young blacks, it is pretty hellish for certain cut-off and economically abandoned white tribes too. Their self-pity may be

smaller in scale than the grievance of black people, but it is, as it were, similarly shaped. (Andrew Marr)
The Observer

THE GREATEST lesson to come out of all this is that no one will tolerate another Stephen Lawrence case. Mr and Mrs Lawrence have been insulted at every stage. But they were entitled to believe that the man who instigated the judicial inquiry into their son's death

was on their side. Jack's sojourn to the South of France is the final straw.
Sunday Mirror

TO TRY to expunge by means of the criminal law the expression of certain unacceptable or revolting ideas would be to attack the very basis of a free society. Unfortunately, this Government has shown signs of being susceptible to national hysteria.
The Independent on Sunday

IT HAS been a bad week for British institutions. The Home Office, the police and the judiciary have emerged with tarnished reputations.

The Macpherson inquiry has produced a heap of politically correct recommendations, some so simplistic in their approach to race relations that they would make the Rev Jesse Jackson blink. The only glimmer of hope is that the Government appears to have enough common sense to

ignore most of the proposals published in the report.
The Sunday Times

NO ONE – not Sir William, not the Lawrences, not the Home Secretary, not even the most extreme black groups – is saying that every policeman is a racist. But the facts of the matter are clear and stark: the police as a whole failed the Lawrences. Worse still, they failed us all.
The Sunday Express

PANDORA

WHO SAID "The harder I work, the luckier I get?" Not the couturier-turned-novelist Bella Pollen (pictured). In her latest, *B-Movies*, *Blue Love*, out next month, a frustrated screenwriter has her script rejected by 187 producers before finally accepting that success isn't everything. Life doesn't always imitate art, though. While dining with friends in New York, Pollen found herself sitting beside a Hollywood producer. During dinner she mentioned the phrase "urban myth". He asked what it meant. She told a tale of freak accidents and dead pets. "And he got obsessed," Pollen says. "He rang up and hassled me so much that I wrote half a page with my sister one afternoon and faxed it as a joke. Five minutes later we had a deal. He's commissioned me to write a screenplay." What's the money? "I'm not going to tell you, but it's an extremely nice figure." More than the advance for your novel, *Arabella*. "Oooh yes," she giggles. Kids, it can be done. Go to more dinner parties.

ASTROLOGY AFICIONADOS already know that this week Saturn moves into Taurus. Tony Blair's birth sign, indicating that our Number One Guy is entering a seven-year cycle emphasising discipline, denial, patience and persistence. No change there, then. One group grabbing this Taurus bull by the horns is Mace Supermarkets. Later this week it will announce its plans to "reinvigorate the corner shop for the 21st century". Mace is targeting "food deserts" - the most brutal sink estates and deprived rural areas - to launch a bold regeneration programme reinvesting a percentage of the stores' take into local self-help projects. A shedload of blue chips is on board. Is this naive? Is it going to work? The project's prime mover, Toby Peters, has a sense of humour: the first store opens on April Fools' Day.

THE TOBACCO industry and social responsibility go together like Nana Mouskouri and concrete-mixers. Yet lobbyists continue their charm offensive: Imperial Tobacco recently sponsored a Lords vs Commons go-kart race at West London's Daytona meerkat. But why doesn't the industry cater to its real constituency? Airline workers' most hellacious

problem now is nicotine-deprived passengers' air rage. Instead of this creepy, pseudo-surreptitious sucking up to legislators, shouldn't the transnational nicotine pushers recycle some of their stinking profits into supplying consumers with flights on which they can smoke? The tobacco industry is always fuming about the right to choose, so why doesn't it walk its talk and offer smokers a no-kids carrier? Air B&H, you are cleared for take-off.

THE CLOSEST that Pandora can get to wishing you all a very happy St David's Day is Welsh is *Hapus Dydd Dewi Sant*. Especially the euphonically named Dafydd Wigley. The Welsh Nationalist leader faces a dilemma today: should he show up at the St David's Hotel at lunch time, when the Cardiff waterfront property will officially become Wales's first five-star hotel? Embarrassingly, it's owned by Sir Rocco Forte - a staunch Tory.

TALKING OF leaks, there'll be red faces on the red benches this morning. Oxfordshire county councillors have been severely ticked off by the education secretary, David Blunkett, in a letter to the council's leader. Blunkett raps naughty councillors over the knuckles for not spending its entire Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) on education investment, as "recommended" by the Government, and urges them to make the "tough decision" to follow the guidelines. But the budget that would have delivered the "recommended" spend was in fact voted down by Labour councillors. Must try harder with your homework in future, Minister.

AS THE glossy posse leaves London for Milan, Kate Moss has had a spat with Versace. Moss wanted her new best friend, the rap diva Foxy Brown - they met on a shoot in the Florida Everglades - to hold her hand during the show on Versace's Milanese runway. But Donatella's people said no. More proof that even on Planet Fashion, millionaire models no longer call the shots.

Contact Pandora by e-mail on: pandora@independent.co.uk

Anyone for a pay-per-view Budget?



HUNTER DAVIES

The rest of the nation could learn a lot about maximising income from the world of football

THEY'RE ON to a winner, these football marketing people. You have to applaud them - they are just so, well, brilliant. This weekend we had the first-ever pay-per-view football match on television. Don't worry if you missed it. About 99.9 per cent of football supporters missed it. Just think about the scam - sorry, the cleverness.

You pay £100 a year for your TV licence and expect to watch some football. Till you discover it's £30 a month extra to see the good matches on Sky. Then you have to pay an extra £8 per match for the one you really, really want to see.

The next stage, which they can easily achieve with modern technology, will involve the screen going blank at a really exciting moment. You'll have to pay another £5 to watch. Corners will probably be cheaper, just £1 each, with throw-ins at 50p. You've got to admire them.

The match on Saturday evening was Oxford United versus Sunderland, and only an estimated 30,000 paid up. Piddling, but smart. The football public generally didn't pay much attention. Just think of the up-

money from marketing football than from people paying at the turnstiles to actually watch matches. That was the beginning of the game's *Alice In Wonderland* economics. Now they are all doing it. Brilliantly.

At Spurs on Saturday, I paid £2 for a programme that contained five pages listing the firms that have executive boxes or hospitality suites, ranging from BT and Ladbrokes to fancy-sounding financial firms I've never heard of. It meant that I was paying money to read a list of firms who have paid Spurs money. How do they get away with it?

I am currently trying to get a ticket for their Wednesday appearance. To find out the ticket details, I have to ring an 0801 number - at a cost of 50p per minute. I have to send a stamped, addressed envelope for them to send me my ticket. If I pay by credit card, they'll charge me another £1. Now, come on. That is terrible. They are charging me a fortune - in order for me to pay them another fortune. The ticket I want is a snip at £90.

The rest of the nation's businesses could learn so much from

football. On my desk I have some stuff about a Scottish Widows PER. The details were sent to me free, along with an SAE in case I decide to invest. If I do, I'll get a £30 Marks & Spencer voucher. In other words, they will pay me to pay them. In football, you have to pay to pay them.

Also on my desk is a brochure from a travel firm, *Elegant Resorts*. It's more than 150 pages long, thick glossy paper, very expensive colour pictures. I guess it must cost £5 to print each one. The current Spurs *Handbook*, which tells you about their product - ie who their players are - has to be bought, for £5. No chance of a Premier football club giving their customers anything free. I'm surprised they don't charge for clapping at a match, or slap a royalty payment on every time we shout "Tot-ing-ham or Wem-bur-lee."

Football is not like normal business. It has it made, because we are so stupid, so craven, all so currently in love with the game. Even so, the nation could learn a lot about maximising income from football.

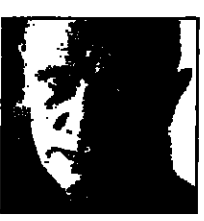
Charlie Whelan recently left the Treasury and has reappeared as a

football expert, which pisses off all the old hacks who've been writing away for years. But the movement should have been the other way. If the Treasury had any sense, it would hire Manchester United's marketing director at once. There's still time for next week's Budget to be, say, the Jiffy Condom Budget. Each year, it gets about the same coverage as the FA Cup final, yet they are so dopey, these government people, they haven't even tried to find a sponsor.

When the Chancellor gets to the bit where he says "and income tax is going to be..." the screen would go blank. It would then be pay-per-view. When printed, the Budget would be about 80 per cent advertising, plus lists of sponsors and arms manufacturers.

It's often thought that football people are rather stupid. True, most of them probably think that Adam Smith is Walter Smith's younger brother, or Maynard Keynes is Roy Keane's posh uncle. But when it comes to economics, football folk are so far ahead they're out of sight and practising magic.

Finding a ready market for a Hebrew Hamlet



STEVEN BERKOFF

Purple cabbage, olives and red peppers: it's amazing what a little bit of talent can do to a vegetable

YESTERDAY I decided to walk to the theatre and so trekked along grim Allenby Street, a winding avenue in Tel Aviv pitted with the habits of the past - the Jewish past. One jewellery shop after another, the trades of an old, restricted world. Small shops (most of them no more than holes in the wall) filled with gold baubles and watches, manned by a solitary person sitting in gloomy shadows eating his lonely sandwich, staring out into the too-familiar street.

The past still hangs like a shroud over Israel while the present breaks through jutting, monstrous facsimiles of New York skyscrapers, ultra-modern chunks towering over the crumbling, broken, old Tel Aviv. Everywhere I walk I notice car-bomb deterrents: small, concrete dunghills shot out by some monster. They line the large stores along Dizengoff Street and, of course, the American Embassy, which looks like a fortress.

I like walking along Allenby Street since it's a real vein of Israeli life - simple, working-class - with occasional pit stops for stuffing off hunger with a pitta filled with falafel and shredded, brightly coloured vegetables - purple cabbage, red peppers, green peppers - and hummus. Like a magician you must try to stuff as much as you can into the tiny half of pitta and then, with even more ingenuity, attempt to wedge a part of that fat parcel into your mouth. The hummus at this stage tends to burst through the envelope, splattering your clothes, and so you grab yards of tissues and continue down the street, half attempting to enjoy your feast and half wiping the debris you make as you do it.

There's a wonderful market midway down Allenby Street where the stalls are piled high with the kind of food you expect to see in the Middle East: mountains of olives in every shade and size; small, crunchy pickles, which I adore; slabs of herrings; piles of smoked mackerel, and, my

deep favourite, an aubergine dip - this is an irresistible metamorphosis of the simple aubergine into a flavour of paradise.

It's amazing what a little bit of talent can do to a vegetable. As I walk through the market after a day at the theatre I become intoxicated as my head swims in the smells and the colours, the sights and the sounds of this market.

It's night, and there is excitement as the shoppers seem feverish to grab the last moments. I buy some bagels but these are unlike anything I have ever tasted before. They are hard on the outside like pretzels and soft within, and so anointing your chunk of bagel with aubergine and pickle approaches nirvana. At the end of the Carmel market is old Tel Aviv and the sea.

Back on Allenby Street I pass an antiquated, dusty hat shop, which is guarded by a man who stands outside looking a little forlorn as he stares into space with watery eyes. His shop might be something that existed in the old Warsaw ghetto or in some neglected little side-street in Vienna. He seems to know that few people will visit him today, but

what else is there for him to do? So they sit, reading the papers which always discuss the same thing in different words each day until your head grows weary with reading about the peace process and Bibi Netanyahu's constant whine about security, which becomes as interesting as an old record played over and over again. Nothing else is ever stated and nothing else renews the spirit, since things stagnate until they move, and in the stagnation Israel festers and decays while the cancer of anti-Semitism and hatred multiplies day by day in the villages, in the refugee camps, in the cities of the Arab world.

Bibi is universally detested by the intelligent Israeli public and adored by the strange bedfellows of colonialists, fundamentalists and born-again Brooklyn and Cape Town Jews, who strut around Hebron with Uzis like some ancient pioneers in the Wild West. They are apt to quote God when claiming parcels of land, as if the great one were some kind of estate agent of the sky. While there is a physical attachment to much of Israel and there has always been a Jewish presence in Jerusalem, there is a growing, vocal concern about trampling on the rights of those who have existed here for centuries.

At the end of Allenby Street I stop for a cappuccino and sit outside a smart coffee house. I notice a cigar-chewing man sitting there, his mobile ever present while his stinking, pseudo-phallic symbol curls its fetid tentacles round my nostrils. What I loathe about cigar smokers and mobile-phone abusers is that they have to share their wretched habit with everyone. Why can't they do it in the toilet?

I am directing *Hamlet* for the Haifa Theatre Company, based on a production I did in 1980, and which toured Israel then. Apparently it left a distinct impression which may have become mythologised in one or



Tel Aviv: an ideal home for Shakespeare

Reuters

two minds over the years, and now, 20 years later, I am repeating it, this time in Hebrew. I have directed Shakespeare in Australia, Germany, New York and now Israel, and it seems to thrive in each country - and not only thrive but positively combust, as if a little foreign travel renews the old guy. All of us love a change of environment.

Being the political animals that Israelis are, they are quick to see parallels in *Hamlet* with their own situation. Claudius, the murderer of Hamlet's father, is seen as Netanyahu, whose virulent attacks on Rabin (his supporters even going as far as to taint Rabin as a Nazi) certainly fuelled the kind of hatred that inspired his assassin. Hamlet's famous anti-war speech, in which he laments fighting for a patch of land and the loss of lives, also finds an answering echo here.

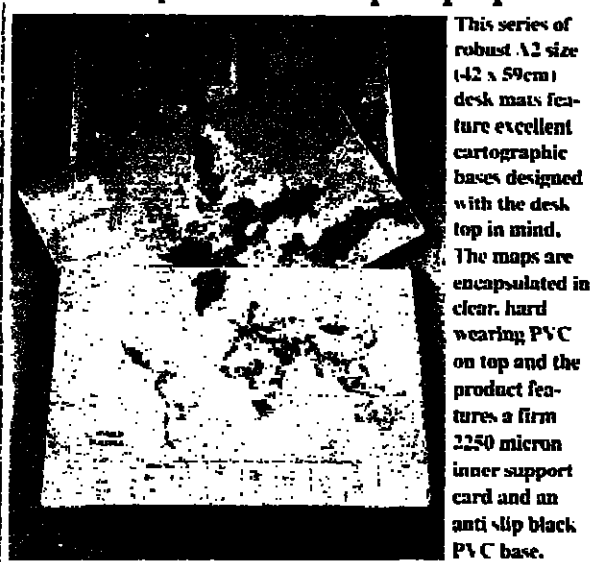
Our *Hamlet*, a skilled actor called Doran Tavory, is an expressive, highly physical actor who would find few competitors in Britain. I think how lucky our actors are, since they are rarely tested against other players as musicians would be, or dancers or even boxers. Lang-

uage fortunately cocoons us and we have to compete only with Americans in the main; and even that is weighted in our favour, with embargoes on actors.

Instead Doran has to find his audience only in Israel, but the theatres certainly find them and leave no audience unmourned.

I recall my enormous frustration while directing Shakespeare in New York when, at the end of the limited run for a limited audience, there was absolutely zilch interest in touring the production anywhere and so the actors were thrown on the dung-heap of unemployment again - when there were theatres all over the US that they could have played in. People are hungry for Shakespeare in America, and the actors would have found work and developed their skills.

Here, at least, they tour to every city in this small country, and productions may go on for more than a year! And this is a nation of less than 4 million people. After touring the theatres, productions will go to schools and after schools to the kibbutzim and, after the kibbutzim, even to the factories.

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South Africa's small human miracle

ALTHOUGH THE Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work and its reporting will be completed only with the conclusion of the amnesty process, it is right that we should now initiate the national debate on reconciliation and nation-building.

I would like once again to record our appreciation of the commission, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, his fellow commissioners, their staff and field workers for the service they have rendered to the country. Their dedication to a difficult and painful task has helped us through a historic stage in our journey towards a better society. They made it possible for tens of thousands of South Africans to make known the inhumanities they had endured. They made it possible for others to disclose their part in inflicting or acquiescing in those inhumanities by acts of commission or omission.

We recognise today the many men, women and children who have sacrificed freedom and even life itself; who have been left with disabilities; who have lost families. We think of the suffering of communities and the trauma

of the nation as a whole. We reflect on the scars that all South Africans carry.

We think of those apartheid sought to imprison in the jails of hate and fear; those it infused with a false doctrine of superiority to justify their inhumanity to others. But we think, too, of those it conscripted or encouraged into machines of destruction, exacting a heavy toll among them in life and limb, and a warped disregard for life and the trauma that goes with it.

We think of the millions of South Africans who live in poverty because of apartheid, disadvantaged and excluded from opportunity by the discrimination of the past.

We recall our terrible past so that we can deal with it, to forgive where forgiveness is necessary, without forgetting, to ensure that never again will such inhumanity tear us apart, and to move ourselves to eradicate a legacy that lurks dangerously as a threat to our democracy.

It is against that background that we turn to the recommendations which the committee makes. Because the effects of the past are so pro-



PODIUM

NELSON MANDELA

From a speech by the President of South Africa to his country's parliament, opening a debate on reconciliation

found and far-reaching, there is a large number of recommendations.

The first set of recommendations for promoting reconciliation focuses on building a strong human rights culture in order to prevent gross human rights violations in the future.

In this regard, we should draw pride in our new constitution and the culture of openness and accountability that has become the trademark of

our new society. And we should here today recommit ourselves to these values, and to practical action to promote human rights among all our citizens and to protect the institutions that are charged by our constitution with this important responsibility.

One outstanding matter that should receive special attention is that of expediting the process of exhumations and burials. Among the many contributions of the committee, the recovery of the remains of victims and their return to family and community in proper burial have been profound in their contribution to healing and knowledge of the past.

While the limitations of this regard to those buried outside the country are widely recognised, this should not subtract from our responsibility to find ways of recognising and acknowledging them in a manner that will bring succour not only to their families and relatives, but also to a nation reaping the fruits of their tireless labour.

The building of monuments and memorials to those who gave their lives, as part of the reconstruction and develop-

ment of our society, will rightly seize the creativity of our people. We know too keenly that no debate can ever capture the emotions that were laid bare in a process that launched our nation's catharsis.

Captured in halls through the length and breadth of the country and beside the unmarked graves of fallen heroes was the resilience of the human spirit of South Africa's people. The tears shed, and the voices choking with emotion, reminded us once more that the freedom we have gained we should never take for granted.

The injunction from that process and from the people of South Africa is that we should forgive but not forget. It is that leaders should emerge from all parties and from all walks of life to build the nation on the basis of hope for a future that we should create together.

Personally, I wish to pledge to you and to the nation as a whole that I will at all times be at your service, to the best of my ability, to contribute to the maturing of the small human miracle that all South Africans have conceived by their collective efforts.

Budget? One man's dog of an argument



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Listen carefully to the farmers, and you get a sense that they realise how weak their case is

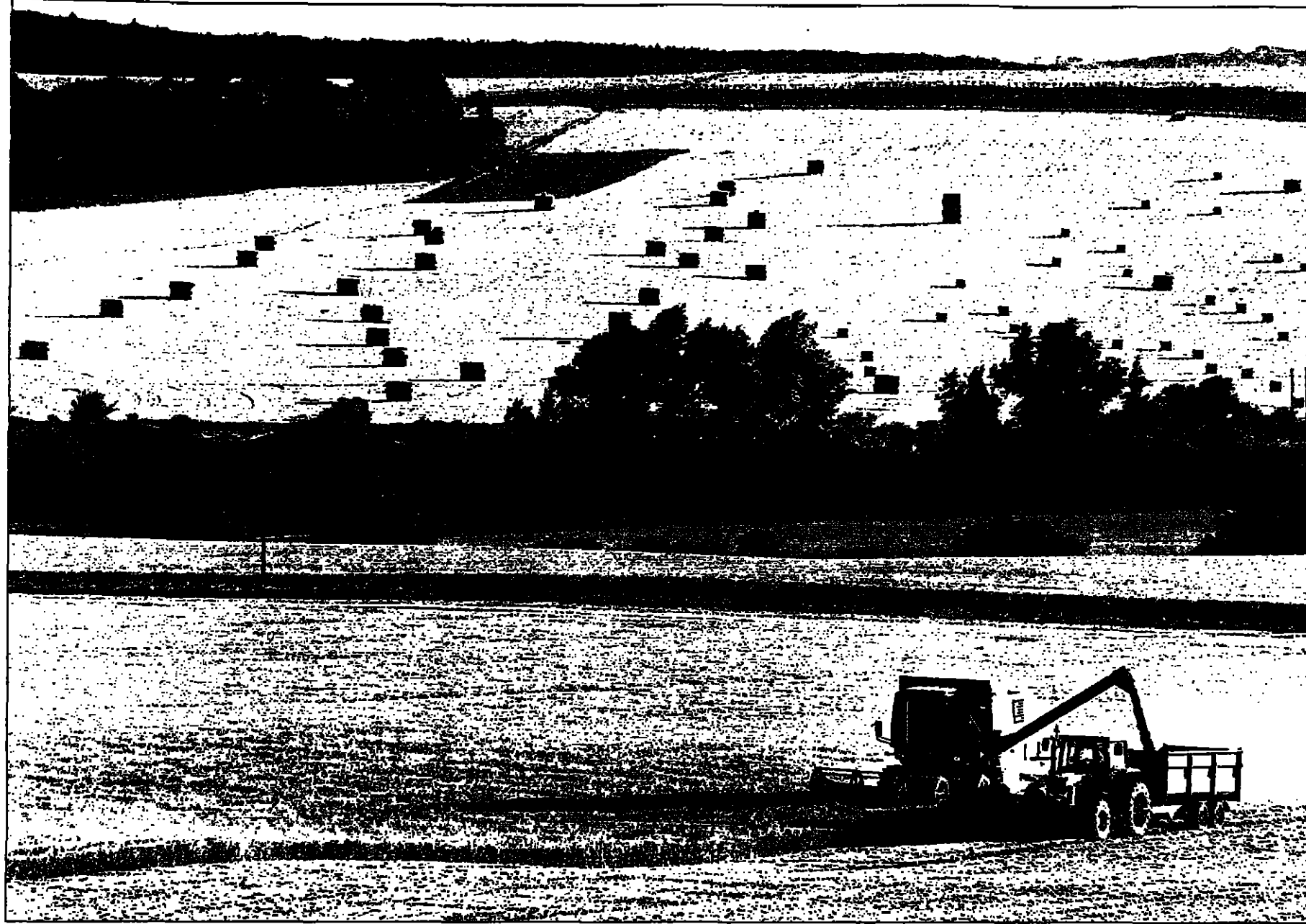
THERE IS only one activity that can wreck a European summit, put France and Germany at each other's throats for the first time in a generation, bring violent protesters from all over Europe into the centre of Brussels and even cause outrage when a BBC television programme that portrays one aspect of its work is axed. I refer, of course, to farming.

Only farming can make otherwise intelligent people write silly letters to newspapers, such as the one published 10 days ago signed by Lord Buxton, former chairman of Anglia Television, Miriam Rothschild, the distinguished zoologist, and the farmer and broadcaster Oliver Walston. Writing about the BBC's plans to stop broadcasting the long-running programme *One Man and his Dog*, they stated that many of our upland livestock farmers are feeling "forgotten, isolated and ignored; the disappearance of *One Man and his Dog* will worsen that feeling of isolation."

As a matter of fact, because it's farming, their economic difficulties receive more sustained attention in newspapers and broadcasts than many other, larger groups of workers who currently fear for their livelihoods. I cannot imagine that a letter about the bleak prospects for Rover car workers would either collect such establishment signatures or be published as top letter in a national newspaper. As distraught hill farmers really running into their kitchens holding copies of the newspaper and saying to their wives: "dreadful news - the BBC is going to cease showing *One Man and his Dog*?" I very much doubt it, frankly.

Moreover, what is never mentioned in polite society is the sheer cost of maintaining farmers in business. It is colossal. The subsidies are created by keeping food prices artificially high, so that the average family pays many more pounds a week for its supplies than it should do and, by taxation, about £1 a week for every taxpayer.

As a result we - yes, all of us, the poor and the rich alike - were able to provide last year an average subsidy to Welsh farms of £18,300 each,



One man and his combine harvester: a farmer reaps the harvest in a Welsh valley

Brian Harris

which is equivalent to 98 per cent of their net income.

But because it is the countryside that we are financing, we must never grumble. It would be like talking during a church service. Last week, for instance, the BBC's *Newsnight* programme rang me to ask whether I would be prepared to do a bit of complaining on air. The producer patiently explained to me that it was very difficult to find anybody to express sceptical, urban views about farming.

The root cause of farming's present difficulties is a worldwide depression in commodity markets. The crisis is not confined to agriculture. On top of an adverse relationship between supply and demand, part of the normal cyclical fluctuation, the situation has been made worse by the Asian and Russian financial crises.

These have led to a substantial reduction in the demand for raw materials, as well as for food. Oil is at its lowest level for 25 years. Prices of agricultural products have been similarly affected. Russia, for

instance, used to take a third of Europe's meat exports; now those orders are minimal.

Within the European Union, there are further difficulties. To achieve a successful launch of the single currency, the euro, member countries are required to observe strict limits on government spending. This explains Germany's attempt to force through reductions in its net contribution to the European budget, much of which comprises the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It is this that has caused such a row with her French neighbour.

At the same time, enlarging the European Union to the east, by including countries such as Poland where as many as 27 per cent of the population still work on the land, would break the back of the CAP unless it were first made leaner and fitter. Hence the plans to reduce, or at least contain, the growth of farm subsidies and the row which such proposals have now generated.

However, if you listen carefully to the protests of farmers and their

supporters you get a sense that they themselves realise how weak is their case.

In a typical outburst, Robin Page, presenter of *One Man and his Dog*, said, "There is an immense prejudice against rural people. If you have got a rural accent, people think that you are thick. People think that we are semi-literate... they see us as reactionary, unsophisticated, thick, white and working-class."

I don't understand this. We know that racial prejudice exists, what it comprises and how it is expressed. But where is the evidence that there is rural prejudice, and what are its marks?

Furthermore, there is no such thing as a rural accent *per se*, only regional accents. A Yorkshire farmer sounds very different from somebody who is working the land in the West Country. The accents of a Norfolk farm worker and a Norwich factory worker are indistinguishable. And Mr Page must be the first person to claim that there is prejudice against white people in this country. What he is really expressing are the self-doubts of his community.

If we are not prejudiced, then we are ignorant. This is implied in the silly letter. Buxton, Rothschild and Walston state that *One Man and his Dog* gives townspeople "a view of the real living and working countryside, so helping to bridge the gap between town and country".

In fact, the programme presents an idealised snapshot of one aspect of hill farming.

Its real value for the rural community is that it contributes to the myth of a tranquil, nature-loving rural society, supposedly mysterious to the rest of us, which we are asked to preserve at all costs.

Franz Fischer, the EU's Agricultural Commissioner, tells us that the CAP is the price of preserving the countryside. Protesting farmers in Brussels say that what is at stake is a whole way of life. Hard as I try, I cannot see what is so special about the rural workers' way of life which sets it on a higher plane than, say, the shipyard workers' or British seafarers' styles of living, about the

disappearance of which few tears were shed or letters written. The spokesman for the National Farmers Union in Wales, Keith Jones, says that "without adequate funding of what we love about the countryside would be lost".

Let us tread carefully here. What preserves the extent of the countryside are the planning regulations. Landowners who find that their agricultural acres can be sold at a profit to a housebuilder rarely pass up the opportunity. What gives the countryside a particular arrangement, its particular flora and fauna, its pattern, style, hue and scent, all that we may love, is the interplay between nature on the one hand and local land use and farming tradition on the other.

It follows that, if farming were to be financed in a new way, then the nature of farming and rural land use would change, and, in due course, so would the countryside itself. But would that be necessarily worse?

Surely it would only be different. But I had forgotten. Farming is sacred and nothing must change.

RIGHT OF REPLY

GEOFF SIMONS



The writer responds to a critical review by Fred Halliday of his latest work

FRED HALLIDAY'S review of my book, *Imposing Economic Sanctions: Legal Remedy or Genocidal Tool?*, rehearses US and UK propaganda.

It is absurd to imply that the Iraqi people suffered in the Eighties as today. Iraq's social provisions were excellent - when Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were bankrolling Baghdad, the US was a war ally of Saddam in the Gulf, and Western firms were aiding his weapons plans.

Halliday is wrong to deny the ban on food and medicine exports to Iraq. The West blocks or delays humanitarian contracts; firms are told not to supply free medicines; and "unauthorised" charities are criminalised (eg *Voices in the Wilderness* workers threatened with \$1m fines and jail). The recent US cruise missile attack on Sudan targeted a pharmaceutical factory licensed to supply medicines to Iraq; grain silos were targeted during Operation Desert Fox.

The nominal \$10.5 bn worth of oil a year cannot be pumped. Sanctions prevent Iraq from repairing its bomb-damaged oil industry and oil prices have plummeted. Moreover, Saddam has no access to revenues; they are paid to a UN account. The agricultural potential cited by Halliday is ruined because of the sanctions block on pesticides, antibiotics and equipment imports (including the means to prevent land salination).

It is wrong to say that resources are being diverted. Michael Stone, ex-head of a UN observer unit, has denounced this "common and dangerous misconception".

Madeline Albright (on US TV in 1996) said that the death of 500,000 Iraqi children, because of sanctions, "is worth it". Fred Halliday, in supporting this deliberate carnage (which he admits does not affect Saddam), violates the UN Genocide Convention. It is a derelict response to the abuse of a people.

The sweet smell of success

MONDAY BOOK

THE CHOCOLATE WARS:
INSIDE THE SECRET WORLDS
OF MARS & HERSHEY
BY JOEL GLENN BRENNER
HARPERCOLLINS BUSINESS, £19.99



MARS IS taking over the earth. Not only does it dominate the global confectionery business, it also sells immensely profitable lines such as Uncle Ben's Rice, Whiskas and Pedigree Chum. This private company, based in Virginia, is run with manic zeal and paranoid secretiveness by John and Forrest Mars Jr, the sons of its bizarre creator.

The family is the third richest in the world, yet the brothers live frugally and clock in to work like the rest of their so-called "associates". These are addressed by their first names, lavishly rewarded and systematically terrorised. Such is the "corporate culture" at Mars that associates check the pet food by tasting it.

Mars owes the majority of its

peculiarities to Forrest Sr, a tycoon so tigerish as to make most of the great beasts in the commercial jungle look like pussy cats. Born in 1904, the son of a small-time American confectioner, Forrest made a fortune in England during the Thirties, inventing the Mars bar and manufacturing it on assembly-line principles. His office was equally streamlined, open plan and

non-bureaucratic. But Forrest, the antithesis of Quakerish Cadbury's and Rowntree's, behaved as though he were making bombs, not bon-bons. He drove his employees with such ferocity that the birthmarks on his forehead often pulsed blood red.

Forrest applied the same techniques to bringing up his children. But in 1974 he gave them the business, a nutty personal fiefdom that was also one of the most efficient multinational corporations in the world (Forrest Sr soon got bored with retirement; he founded a liqueur chocolate empire in Las Vegas, where he uses two-way mirrors to spy on his workers, who call their nonagenarian boss the "phantom of the candy factory").

Hershey, Mars's chief rival for mastery of the \$14bn (£8.75bn) confectionery market in America is a more orthodox organisation. Whereas the Mars brothers practise what an associate calls "seagull management" - "They swoop down, shit and fly away" - the Hershey organisation is governed by a standard executive hierarchy. Ranks of chocolate soldiers are marshalled against Mars. Yet Hershey's history is, if anything, the more remarkable.

The firm was founded in the 1890s by Milton Hershey, who had already become America's caramel tsar and then found a way of combining the incompatible ingredients of milk and chocolate. His mixture is sour and gritty to European (and even Canadian) palates. But it formed American taste. The nickel Hershey bar be-



Forrest Mars Sr shortly before he retired in 1974

Camera Pressa

came synonymous with chocolate, especially after being supplied to GIs during the two world wars. Since it is not sweet enough to be completely satisfying, Americans soon began to eat a lot of it - the current annual figure is 25lb per stomach.

Milton was an experimenter and idealist. He spent millions of dollars in a doomed attempt to turn surplus cocoa butter into soap; it smelt so chocolatey that people tried to eat it. He also built a Utopian township, named Hershey, around his huge Pennsylvania factory. It was run on paternalistic lines and Milton checked to see whether householders cut their grass. The town's air was so permeated by chocolate that breathing seemed liable to induce tooth decay.

In 1918, when his beloved, childless wife died, Milton donated his entire estate to the orphanage that they had founded. Today, one of the richest educational institutions in the country, it gives America's underprivileged a smacking Hershey Kiss.

Joel Glenn Brenner, who was formerly a journalist on *The Washington Post*, is prone to elementary errors: she describes Slough as "a small industrial town about 30 miles north of London" and she thinks that the US entered the Second World War in 1942. There is also some question about her central argument. Mars is at war not just with Hershey, but with everyone.

But Brenner is a good storyteller, and she has an excellent story to tell. She gives a lively account of the history of chocolate, food of the gods to the Aztecs, aphrodisiac to Louis XV's mistresses, pot of gold to the "high-ranking cocoa-bean gnomes" of Zurich. And she deserves credit for penetrating the closed, Willy Wonka-like world of the chocolate makers, with their esoteric recipes, their clandestine processes and their obsession about industrial espionage - contractors called in to mend machinery at Mars, for example, are led through the plant blindfolded.

She uncovers fascinating episodes in the great confectionery contest: the search for the grain of chocolate that melts in your mouth but not in your hand; Mars's conquest of post-Communist Eastern Europe and the "Snickerisation of Russia"; Hershey's brilliant use of Steven Spielberg's film *ET* to promote Reese's Pieces (peanut-butter Smarties - ugh). In sum, this is bright, brittle but somewhat cloying stuff. It will appeal most to those with a literary sweet tooth, for Brenner sounds like a chocoholic and her prose gets as gooey as a Milky Way on a hot afternoon.

PIERS BRENDON

MONDAY POEM

DIRTY DAY DERRY
BY PAUL DURCAN

When I ask the young widow for a cylinder of gas
She laughs: "Have you chained up your empty?"
She loves to be able to say that to me.
"Have you chained up your empty?"

As outside in the street in the storm
In which people are crouching to keep on their feet
And umbrellas are lying dead in the gutter
Turned inside out -

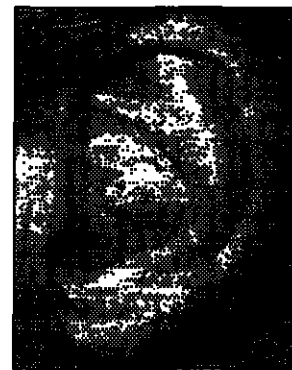
Although the young widow's heart lies a-bleeding,
She folds her arms under her bust and peers out
The window over the stacked cornflakes laughing at me -
An older man chaining up his empty.

I know all about boys and girls:
About gas, about chains, about empties.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Paul Durcan's new collection, *Greetings to Our Friends in Brazil* (Harvill, £14.99)

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Viscount Eccles

DAVID ECCLES deserves to be remembered as the architect of the post-war expansion in further education and the first minister to regard educational expenditure as an economic investment. His appointment of an economist, Geoffrey Crowther, as Chairman of the Central Advisory Council opened education to a wider constituency, and the report which Eccles commissioned on education between the ages of 15 and 18 repaid the compliment by making an economic case for raising the school leaving age.

He was ever an enthusiast for an expansion of higher education. He could be sharply political as well. Under pressure earlier to reduce the school leaving age, he wrote: "If we, who mainly send our children to boarding schools, encouraged early leaving from the country's secondary schools we should present the Opposition with a first class election issue." His officials paid tribute to his genuine commitment to opportunity and parental choice, and Edward Boyle, who worked with him in Education, spoke warmly of his "creative imagination". He saw the increasing importance of education to the modern world and while he was there, Education looked set to become a major department.

Eccles is best remembered for his act of self-immolation in July 1962. Unlike others in Macmillan's "Night of the Long Knives", he was offered another post. "It's the Exchequer or nothing," he told the Prime Minister and was promptly added to the list of those to go. Although later to claim that he had intended to stand down before the next election, he complained bitterly that he had been "sacked with less notice than a housemaid" and his animus against Macmillan was fuelled when he was elevated to the Lords as a mere baron. Alec Douglas-Home typically put matters straight in 1964 by conferring the viscountcy more appropriate to Cabinet ministers of Eccles's standing.

In many ways Eccles was his own worst enemy. Macmillan thought him "very vain... frightfully bumptious" and he certainly had a high opinion of his own intelligence and his ability to manage a department. That this view was largely justified did not make it any more acceptable to his colleagues. He was nicknamed "smarty boots" and the unkind reference was to more than his sartorial elegance. The distinguished civil servant Antony Part was right nevertheless to think that "his chances of rising further would have been enhanced if he had gone to a less good tailor". He could be contemptuous of colleagues, whom he thought less intelligent, and was more than a little abrasive when dealing with political opponents.

There was a nicer side. He refused to be interviewed by the biographer of one colleague because he knew that he would run him down and did not wish to upset his wife. Although capable of making racy and sometimes idiosyncratic speeches, his style was more often pedestrian, the content much less so. As a former colleague noted, his "brilliant and unorthodox mind compels one to forgive his flat and lethargic voice - I should never omit him from any Cabinet of mine".

David McAdam Eccles came from an upper-middle class Harley Street background, the son of a distin-

guished surgeon and strong Presbyterian. Educated at Winchester, a great generator of intellectual arrogance, and New College, Oxford, he imbibed his knowledge of liberal economics from Lionel Robbins. While at Oxford he demonstrated a "barrow boy's instinct" for trading, combining a love of antiquarian books with an ability to secure a good price for them. From there he went into the City, rather to his father's dismay, and made a good deal of money. Much of it he invested in books, paintings and sculpture. He gave generously to charity. In 1928, he married Sybil, lovely daughter of the King's physician, Lord Dawson of Penn.

One of his business activities, chairmanship of a Spanish railway, led to his wartime employment as Economic Adviser to the British Ambassadors in the Iberian peninsula (1940-42). There he laid out bribes to good effect to keep both the Franco and Salazar regimes out of the war. His correspondence with Sybil

stead he went to the Ministry of Works, a key player in the Conservative's housing drive. He stage-managed the Coronation in 1953 with all the skills of a great impresario. Although haunted ever after by the use Randolph Churchill made of his remark (taken out of context) that the Queen had been "a perfect leading lady", he was knighted by her and was an obvious candidate for promotion when Churchill reshuffled his government in October 1954.

At Education he put his faith in grammar schools and the development of science. Defending selection, however, meant that he would have to strengthen the modern schools. They were to become "magnets" by developing their own specialisms. There were to be extended courses, more vocational courses and links with the grammar and technical schools and with further education. The latter was a new avenue of opportunity and with Eden's backing, he not only secured major funding for the sector for the first time since the war, but produced a rationalised structure offering an alternative pathway into higher education.

Rescuing the Percy Report from 11 years' obscurity, he created a hierarchy of colleges peaking in the new colleges of advanced technology. He was tough and largely successful with the Treasury, winning a major clash with Butler when the latter sought to slow his programme for replacing the all age schools. However, his final battle against the block grant system of local government finance was lost, although not until he had left the ministry for the economic department he had long craved.

At the Board of Trade, curiously, he seemed less at home, although he showed himself a vigorous promoter of British exports. The detailed negotiations to embed the EEC into a wider free trade area were in Reginald Maudling's hands, although when they broke down, it fell to Eccles to denounce the French veto and press unsuccessfully for mutual tariff reductions. He was less than enthusiastic about EFTA - describing it as "marrying the engineer's daughter when the managing director's is no longer available". He was responsible for the Distribution of Industry Act 1958, which marked a partial shift back to regional policy.

Returning to Education in 1959, he ensured that all those with two A levels would receive a local authority award to go to university, created the CSE examination and, despite divisions amongst his own advisers, took the first faltering steps "to make the ministry's voice heard rather more often and no doubt more controversially" in what he memorably called "the secret garden of the curriculum". In February 1962, in the teeth of bitter resistance from the local authorities and the NUT, he established the Curriculum Study Group. His successors replaced it with the Schools Council.

However, he clashed with his colleagues when he refused to make cuts in the education budget and was one of those who rebelled against the detail, if not the thrust of Selwyn Lloyd's budget in 1962. Macmillan suspected that he was engaged in some deep-laid plot and was trying to engineer a good issue on which to resign. That was pure paranoia.

After his sacking, Eccles returned to business, becoming a director of Courtaulds and chairman



Eccles, as Minister of Works, at the site of a Roman temple in London, 1954

Hulton Getty

of West Cumberland Silk Mills Ltd. He became a trustee of the British Museum in 1963 and chaired the trustees from 1968 until unexpectedly recalled to government by Edward Heath in 1970 as Paymaster General with responsibility for the Arts. His relationships in that field were soured by the government's determination to impose museum charges. That should not obscure some very real achievements, particularly in relation to craftsmanship. He was later to become President of the World Crafts Council (1974-78).

He had completed a thoughtful book, *Life and Politics*, which was published in 1967. Identifying a growing moral vacuum to which none of the parties appeared to have an answer, he argued that Britain faced a choice between a move towards technocracy, which he thought not only wrong but unwelcome, and the religious faith which he favoured but for which the times were not propitious. An earlier book, *Halfway to Faith* (1966), records the uncertainties of his own search for God. Throughout his life a hanker for monastic seclusion was always subordinated to his appetite for public life, but his ambition always was for the public good.

JOHN BARNES

Collectors are born not made, and David Eccles was unquestionably a born collector, writes Nicolas Barker. He began to collect books at Winchester, and early acquired the taste for private press books that lasted all his life. Like all good collectors, his wants outran his means, and as an undergraduate he supplemented them by subscribing at Blackwell's for all Nonesuch Press books and selling those he did not wish to keep at the premium they then commanded in London. The years in Spain enlarged both tasks and opportunities, notably for acquiring medieval works of art. No one who heard it will ever forget the story of how he helped an abbot smuggle a Visigothic crucifix out of her convent in a Galician peasant's coffin.

Other triumphs were candidly recorded in *On Collecting* (1962), which dwelt more on the joys of the chase than the keen eye and catholic taste that lay behind them. Eccles found time to indulge both during his early years in politics. Books, however, remained his first and last love, and the dispersal of the huge Phillips collection of manuscripts in the 1960s and 1970s gave him a great opportunity. His knowledge of Spanish history alerted him to the

importance of the papers of Sir Robert Ker Porter, the British consul in Caracas from 1836 to 1841, most of which he was able to acquire.

This formed the basis of his own remarkable collection of books, manuscripts, documents, prints and drawings relating to the liberation of South America and, in particular, the life of Simon Bolivar. He was delighted when this passed to the Librarian's own fatherland, Venezuela.

In 1963, out of office, Eccles became a Trustee of the British Museum, succeeding Lord Radcliffe as chairman in 1968. Neither he nor his predecessor were able to avert the consequences of the then Labour government's shameful abandonment of the long-planned and much needed library annex for the British Museum. Eccles, however, made the best of a bad job, and as Paymaster-General, armed with the Dalton Report on the national provision for libraries, he was largely responsible for the creation of the British Library.

This brought together the British Museum Library, the National Central Library that coordinated public library loans, the Patent Office Library and other government-funded scientific libraries. The organising committee created by the

British Library Act (1971) included Harry Hookway and Don Richell, whose abilities impressed Eccles. In 1973 they became chief executive and director-general of the Reference Division of the library, while Eccles, when the Conservative government fell in 1973, became the first chairman of the newly established British Library Board.

The British Library was a pragmatic triumph for Eccles. It was not perfect, but, as he said when reproached for the sad divorce of the British Museum Department of Prints and Drawings from the Library, "You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs". He never lost faith in it through the long years of government procrastination that followed, and happily lived to see it fulfilled when the Queen opened the great new building next to St Pancras last summer. Nor was the British Library his only creation. The Crafts Council (set up in 1971) owed as much to him, and just as his collection of books informed his interest in libraries, so now he became a patron of the crafts, notably the work of potters, Bernard Leach, Lucie Rie and others not so well known.

In 1984 Eccles turned 80, and his birthday party was held at the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. There he electrified the guests by announcing his engagement to Mary Hyde, a great collector of books like himself. Eccles had been a member of the Roxburghe Club since 1965, and presented to it a facsimile of the atlas made for Henry VIII by John Rotz; now he saw to it that his wife became the first woman member of that august bibliophile body. He then entered on a long late Indian summer, happily spent between his English homes and his wife's farm in New Jersey. Together they took the lead in establishing the Centre for American Studies at the British Library. Eccles himself bestowed his collection of private press books on Winchester, thereby notably augmenting the library resources for the boys, as opposed to the fellows of the college.

Eccles was a creature of paradox. There were those who could not stand the combination of aggressive self-confidence and unashamed pursuit of self-interest. But if he wore his vices on his sleeve, he made light of his good deeds, often pursued with stealth. One week or two ago, on what was to be his last flight to America and already seemingly at death's door, he could still summon the attendant and whisper "Tell the captain to go faster". It was impossible not to admire the confidence and courage with which he met good and ill throughout his long life.

David McAdam Eccles, politician: born London 18 September 1904; Economic Adviser to HM Ambassadors at Madrid and Lisbon 1940-42; Ministry of Production 1942-43; MP (Conservative) for the Chippenham Division of Wiltshire 1943-62; PC 1951; Minister of Works 1951-54; KCVO 1953; Minister of Education 1954-57, 1959-62; President of the Board of Trade 1957-59; created 1962 Baron Eccles, 1964 Viscount Eccles; Paymaster-General, with responsibility for the arts 1970-73; Chairman, British Library Board 1973-78; CH 1984; married 1928 Sybil Dawson (died 1977; two sons, one daughter), 1984 Mary Hyde; died 24 February 1999.

Lord Dean of Beswick

LOCAL GOVERNMENT heavyweights who arrive in Westminster have usually been disappointed, and end up regretting that they ever changed from local to national government. Joe Dean was an exception. Already 51 years of age, he arrived in 1974 as the successor in Leeds West to the redoubtable Charles Pannell. But he was known throughout the party, as the leader of the Labour Group on the Manchester City Council and long-time chairman of Manchester's housing committee. Indeed one of his first acts as an MP carrying over from his previous incarnation, was to hand over the key of the 100,000th house to come into the possession of the Manchester Corporation, to Harold Wilson as incoming prime minister.

In 1974 Dean was immediately appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to his friend and fellow Mancunian Charlie Morris, who had been Harold Wilson's own faithful FPS in opposition and had been rewarded with the important post of minister of state with day to day responsibility for the Civil Service. Dean found himself very near the heart of that government.

Some MPs are rather special in that their colleagues perceive that their parliamentary existence represents a significant element in British society and a significant element in the Labour Party: Joe Dean was - and was proud to be - the representative of the skilled artisan engineer. He would stalk the

corridors of the Commons, and later the corridors of the Lords and Commons, buttonholing colleagues, snub-nosed, looking up at his hero straight in the eye and expressing his point of view on the thorny topics of the hour in one syllable salty language.

Relentless, yes - but a bore he was not. What he had to say was usually interesting, often amusing, usually pertinent and contained a view widespread in Trafford Park which albeit uncomfortable deserved to be put, and which Labour politicians would be wise to take into account. He became a House of Commons talisman, a signpost rather than a weathercock and an excellent man of Parliament. Labour peers displayed good taste in requiring Dean over a period of years to be one of their two representatives in the shadow cabinet.

Joe Dean was born the only son among five sisters of an engineer and a devout Roman Catholic family. He was later to leave the Church on grounds of Christians' displaying hypocrisy in attacking one another so frequently but he valued enormously his contacts with the Catholic Church and the Catholic friends whom he had made at St Anne's School, Ancoats.

As he was to tell the House of Commons during the passage of the Inner Urban Areas Bill of February 1978,

I was born in a deprived area, and until the outbreak of war I was one of a family of six who lived in a two-up and two-

'The trauma of having middle-aged, highly skilled people come to you who know they will never work again, is one I do not want to repeat'



down slum house. I went to a school with 50 boys in each class. That may be the type of society the opposition front bench wanted to retain but I did not want it and I played a large part in removing it from the city that I later represented at local level. I do not want to talk about the warmth of those communities, because I think it is a good job that most of them have been removed.

Dean was apprenticed to the famous engineering works of Beyer Peacock. He remained immensely proud of this firm and its skilled management and workforce. Just before the Second World War the Great Western Railway of Brazil placed with Beyer Peacock an order for four metre gauge four-eight-two plus 2/4 Garratts, which was not completed because of the war but for which, nevertheless, much design work had been done. This was exactly the sort

of development that the War Department was looking for and so naturally the drawings were taken out, dusted and such modifications as necessary made to fit the engines into a restricting loading gauge for Indian Railways. Twenty were ordered for Burma with superheated roundtop fireboxes and with plate-flamed power units. Dean, who remained fascinated by engines all his life, was extraordinarily proud of his part in making these machines so important for the war effort before in 1942 he volunteered for the Royal Navy.

With his knowledge of the rifling (the spiral grooving of a gun bore) of guns made at Beyer Peacock, he was very useful. And his wife, later to be one of the first women members to have any position in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering

Workers, continued to work on the rifling of guns at Beyer Peacock.

I never ceased to be amazed at the unlikely depths of specialist knowledge possessed by my parliamentary colleagues. Dean was a veritable walking *Jane's Fighting Ships of the 1940s* and for a Labour Member of Parliament he had a most unlikely hero - none other than Chester W. Nimitz, Admiral in the United States Navy.

On demobilisation Dean returned to Beyer Peacock, remaining there at the Gorton locomotive engineering factory until 1969, when he transferred to Metro-Vickers at Trafford Park. It was in the same year that he was elected to the Manchester City Council.

In his maiden speech on 12 March 1974 he expressed his delight that previously escalating rents had been frozen.

If the rent levels set by the rent tribunals are any indication, the further operation of the Conservative Rent Act would have been disastrous for working-class people living in council houses.

In his early period in Parliament he campaigned successfully for the outlawing of the "jump" in the building industry, involving difficulties with sub-contractors.

If we are to divert building forces in adequate strength to the municipal building programme and to house-building generally some form of licensing will be necessary. It has been proved beyond doubt that one cannot build houses at the same time as there is over-building of blocks of luxury offices and flats.

Towards the end of the Labour government, on 9 February 1978

Dean lamented how unlucky Leeds had been as a result of local government organisation:

My constituency has some nice parts but in the inner segment is an extremely deprived area. It is as bad an area as I have seen anywhere. In the reorganisation the boundaries of Leeds were extended quite considerably to include more affluent areas. The centre of Leeds has been somewhat masked by the inclusion of those areas.

Dean campaigned not only for those in dreadful housing conditions but also for the Direct Labour departments of big cities where he thought that large building departments had an immense contribution to make. He wanted his government to ensure that the private sector was made to toe the line in the way that private firms tender for contract. The direct labour organisations should not be at a disadvantage.

The Labour Chief Whip Michael Cooks entrusted Dean with the sensitive job of pairing whip in the final months when the Government was in a minority. He performed this important task, which included the wretched rejection of genuine requests for a pair, with tact and good humour.

In the 1983 general election Dean lost the West Leeds seat to the energetic doorstep campaigning of the Liberal Michael Meadowcroft. He was shocked. However Michael Foot imaginatively gave him one of the ration of Labour peerages. And he took to the House of Lords like a duck to water. On 16 November 1983 I went to hear his maiden

speech. He said that he had the good fortune when a member of the Commons to obtain an adjournment debate on unemployment in the city of Leeds travel-to-work area, on 28 April. Dean added wryly:

Little did I realise, when speaking in that debate in April, that in less than two months I would myself be joining the dole queue. I can tell you lordships that it is a shattering experience for one who, since leaving school at the age of 14, has never been unemployed. We can debate unemployment in this chamber today, and we can debate it again; they will debate it in another place, and debate it again. But the trauma of standing among young people at the jobcentre and watching the despair registered on their faces, and the trauma of having middle-aged, highly skilled people come to you who know they will never work again, is an experience I do not want to repeat. It certainly taught me something about the problem.

Joe Dean was the antithesis of the slick modern "new" politician - but he offered both the Commons and then the Lords something of inestimable value.

TAM DALYELL

Joseph John Dean, engineer and politician: born Manchester 3 June 1922; Leader, Manchester City Council 1969-74; MP (Labour) for Leeds West 1974-83; Parliamentary Private Secretary to Minister of State, Civil Service Department 1974-77; Assistant Government Whip 1982-83; created 1983 Baron Dean of Beswick; married 1945 Helen Hill (one daughter); died Rochdale, Lancashire 26 February 1999.

Chp 11/10/1550

Joan Long

THE FILM producer and scriptwriter Joan Long got her first job in film-making by informing the producer that "film was the art of the 20th century". He was stunned: for a woman to have a job at the end of the 1940s in film was something of a miracle in itself.

She started out at the Commonwealth Film Unit in 1948 as a secretary but quickly made it her business to get into the cutting rooms to "learn the grammar of film". The director of the film *Bobo* (1955), Chris Noonan, once described Long as "the closest thing to royalty in the Australian film industry".

She was born Joan Dorothy Boundy, one of five children of a Methodist minister and his wife, at Rushworth in rural Victoria. A history graduate, she was none the less perturbed by what she called the "intellectual snobbery of films". She once reflected: "It wasn't something you did, it was something you were interested in."

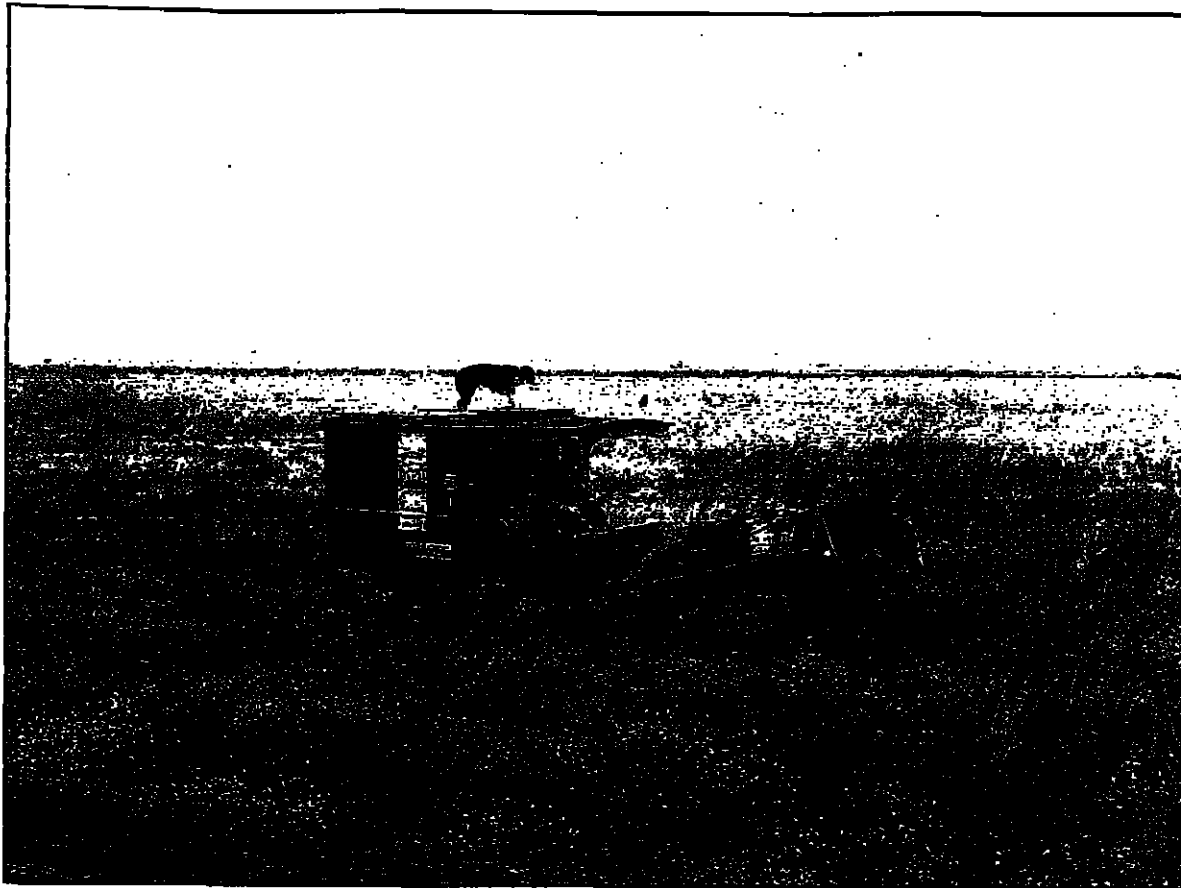
Early in her career she was challenged to write a script about the Australian explorer Edmund Kennedy, who was speared by Aborigines at Cape York in 1848. The film's producer declared that hers was the first script he had read which showed a real understanding of how films were made. She was promptly told to "go out and make films".

It was her award-winning script for Christopher McCulloch's *Paddington Lake* (1970) which attracted my attention when I was looking for a scriptwriter to adapt *Caddie*, the autobiography of a woman forced to take menial jobs, at the height of the depression, including that of a barmaid, to support her children. She protested, "I've never written a feature film." I replied, "I've never produced one." And so began a long and trusting professional and personal friendship.

Caddie was a baptism of fire for all of us. We had enough money for six weeks of filming and a script which should rightfully have been given eight weeks. Each week, after six days of shooting, the seventh day would be spent by the director, Donald Crombie, and Long tearing pages out of the script to fit the shooting schedule we could afford. She described each weekend as like having one's right and left arms being taken off simultaneously.

The result, premiered in London in 1976, with *Caddie* superbly played by Helen Morse, caught the public imagination in a way no other Australian film had done before.

The success of *Caddie* encouraged Long to take on the dual roles of writing and producing. She was only the second woman to do so in Australian feature



Scene from *The Picture Show Man* (1977), written and produced by Long

Ronald Grant Archive

films in more than 45 years. In this dual role she made *The Picture Show Man* (1977), which celebrates the life of the touring showmen who took movies to the bush with portable projectors and screens. It was made with great affection for its central character and earned a place in the history of our industry whose pioneers were mainly forgotten. Then came the 1981 box office success *Puberty Blues*, which she wrote and co-produced with Margaret Kelly.

More and more, however, her attention was being attracted to the difficult role of producing; her next feature was *Silver City* (1984). It was the first film to deal with the human side of Australia's first post-war migrant intakes. This was followed by David Williamson's *Emerald City* in 1989. Long's feature films received a total

of 23 AFI nominations and won in seven categories. Her documentaries were equally acclaimed. *The Pictures That Moved* and *The Passionate Industry* were screened in official selection at Cannes and, in Italy in 1981, she won the prestigious Vittorio De Sica Award for scriptwriting.

'Film wasn't something that you did, it was something you were interested in'

In writing narration for my film on the life of the cameraman Frank Hurley, she described Hurley as "that stubborn, tireless man". The adjectives also described herself. Joan Long's tireless commitment to the renaissance of the Australian film industry in the 1960s and 1970s is legendary.

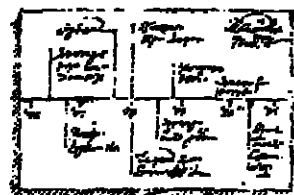
Long was a natural activist. As president of the Australian Writers Guild, she gave evidence to the 1972 inquiry into the Australian film industry. Of the 99 witnesses, she was one of only two women. The man sitting next to her thought she was a secretary – the inquiry chairman knew otherwise.

Her sense of history made her the ideal choice to be appointed the first chair of the National Film and Sound Archive in 1984. She was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in 1980 for her services to the Australian film industry and received the Australian Writers Guild's Dorothy Crawford Award in 1991. Her long and distinguished career was further recognised in 1997 by Women in Film & Television with the first Venus Award.

Until the illness that caused her death, Joan Long had been working on her screenplay for a docudrama on the life of her famous counterparts, the McDonald sisters, Australian pioneer filmmakers of the 1920s and 1930s.

ANTHONY BUCKLEY

Joan Dorothy Boundy, film producer and screenwriter: born Rushworth, Victoria 20 July 1925; AM 1980; married Martin Long (one son, one daughter; one stepson and one stepdaughter); died Sydney, New South Wales 2 January 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES

MARION SHOARD

Private property is a public asset too

THE CURRENT debate over public access to the countryside is usually presented as the struggle between two interest groups: big-booted rambles versus Barbour-jacketed landowners. In fact it raises an ancient and thorny question: what is land?

Our law of trespass implies a simple answer. Land is property like an armchair for private owners to do with as they wish. Yet land, unlike furniture, is also part of the environment of us all, like the sea or the air. So isn't the community entitled to a claim?

Prehistoric man was so intent on ownership that his tools, weapons and jewellery were buried with him. Yet the idea that the land through which he hunted could be owned in the same way would have astounded him.

Aristotle argued that only the control of individuals could provide sufficient incentive for effective husbandry. Events, not least the record of collective farming in our own age, suggest that he had a point. Yet Aristotle did not go on to advocate the absolute ownership of land. He suggested that those owning title must share rights to use their property with others.

conflict with other needs, like privacy around the home or the protection of crops.

Our different tradition in Britain has its roots in the Norman Conquest. Barons eager for space to pursue their passion for hunting turned the land of a defeated people and even the wild animals they found on it into private property. This attitude found its way into the agrarian capitalism which replaced feudalism in the late middle ages. Land became simply an economic input. Thus the enclosure movement was allowed to deprive ordinary people not only of land to farm but of ancient rights to gather nuts, berries, mushrooms, timber and peat.

As land ownership became more and more closely associated with social status, high walls shut people out of secluded parklands and the exclusive pursuit of game tightened the owner's grip. Yet Britain's landowners' absolute claim on their holdings has never been altogether accepted. The people's claims have been continually asserted in events like the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, the Diggers' land occupations of the 17th century and the "Blacking" attacks of the 18th century, in which gangs of men with their faces blackened to avoid detection raided game preserves.

Landowners have been gradually forced to accept a growing range of constraints on their ownership rights, in

the form of public footpaths, planning controls, pollution restrictions and so on. Successive waves of new thinking have further eroded the idea that the countryside should be treated as private property.

First, the Romantic Movement turned the landscape into a theatre of self-realisation for the educated classes. In the 20th century, rural recreation became a general aspiration. Today, walking in the countryside is our second most popular outdoor activity, after gardening. Environmentalism has encouraged people to see their surroundings as too important to be controlled by privileged individuals. Growing democratic assertiveness and questioning of the established order have turned this view into a direct challenge to the legitimacy of a tiny minority's hold on a vital public asset.

These forces are working not just through "ramblers", but all who claim a stake in the rural environment: bird-watchers, picnickers, archaeologists, children, and people who may rarely actually visit the countryside yet in whose imaginations it nonetheless lives as part of the collective identity of the nation. It is the remorseless logic behind these forces which seems destined sooner or later to overwhelm our anomalous and archaic law of trespass.

Landowners have been gradually forced to accept a growing range of constraints on their ownership rights, in

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

GAULIK, James, mathematician, late of Ministry of Defence, suddenly on 5 February 1999 at his home in Dingwall, Ross-shire, Scotland, aged 83 years.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen holds a reception at Buckingham Palace for the winners of The Queen's Award for Export, Technology and Environmental Achievement. The Prince of Wales launches the Welsh Beef Promotion Campaign at the Celtic Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club, Newport, Gwent, South Wales. The Duke of York visits Vietnam. The Princess Royal visits Bath University Sports Training Village, Bath, Somerset. Princess Alexandra attends a Reception at the Victorian and Albert Museum, London SW7.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaryes, In memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, marriages, etc.) which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Harry Belafonte, actor and entertainer, 72; Mr David Broome, show jumper, 59; Mr Douglas Bunn, founder, All-England Jumping Course, Hickstead, 71; Sir Robert Calderwood, former chief executive, Strathclyde Regional Council, 67; Mr David Comins, rector, Glasgow Academy, 51; Mr Nigel Cowley, cricketer, 46; Mr Roger Daltrey, singer and actor, 55; Mr Andrew Paul, actor and former MP, 76; Sir Allan Green QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, former Deputy C-in-C Allied Forces, Central Europe, 81; Mr Martin Jones MP, 52; Sir Michael Kerr, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 78; Professor James Lister, paediatrician, 76; Mrs Patricia Metham, Head, Roedean School, 54; Mr John Napier, designer for the stage, 55; Mr Mike Read, pop music presenter, 48; Commandant Dame Nancy Robertson, former director of the WRNS, 90; Mr David Scott Cowper, solo yachtsman, 57; Mark Todd, Olympic athlete, 43; Maj-Gen Philip Tower, former Commandant, Royal Military Academy, 82; Mr Brian Waites, golfer, 59; Sir Gerald Wheat, chief executive, Racal Telecom plc and deputy chairman, Vodafone Group, 72.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Samuel Romilly, law reformer, 1757; Gottfried Weber, composer, 1779; Denis-Auguste-Marie Raffet, illustrator, 1823; Frédéric François (Fryderyk Franciszek) Chopin, composer, 1810; Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, architect, 1812; Ebenezer Prout, composer, 1835; Alfred Philippe Roll, painter, 1848; Augustus Saint-Gaudens, sculptor, 1848; Georg Simmel, philosopher and sociologist, 1858; Henry

Harland, novelist and editor of the *Yellow Book*, 1861; Lytton Giles Strachey, writer and biographer, 1880; Roger Martin du Gard, playwright and novelist, 1881; Oskar Kokoschka, expressionist painter, 1888; Alton Glenn Miller, bandleader, 1904; James David Graham Niven, actor, 1910; Robert Trill Spence Lowell, poet, 1917; Dinah Shore (Frances Rose Shore), singer, 1917.

Deaths: Dom Francisco d'Almeida, Portuguese viceroy, killed at Table Bay, 1510; Thomas Campton, poet and composer, 1620; George Herbert, clergyman and poet, 1633; Girolamo Frescobaldi, organist and composer, 1643; Thomas Ellwood, poet, 1718; Edward Moore, playwright and writer of fables, 1757; Hermann Samuel Reimarus, philosopher, 1768; Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor, 1792; Prince Alexander Mikhailovich Gorchakov, Russian statesman, 1883; George Grossmith, comedian and singer, 1912; Gabriele D'Annunzio, poet, politician and playwright, 1938; Mack Gordon (Morris Gittler), lyricist, 1939; Jackie (Jack Leslie) Coogan, actor, 1984; Tommy Farr, heavyweight boxer, 1986.

On this day, Mozambique was discovered by Vasco da Gama, 1498; 1,200 French Huguenots were massacred at Vassy, 1562; *The Spectator* was first published, 1711; Charles I of Spain expelled the Jesuits from the country, 1767; slavery was abolished by Pennsylvania; the first US state to do so, 1780; all the States of the American Union ratified the articles of Confederation, 1781; Ohio became the 17th of the United States, 1803; Mehmet Ali of Egypt massacred the Mamelukes and obtained total power, 1811; Texas was annexed by the United States, 1845; Nebraska became the 37th of the United States, 1867; in the US,

Yellowstone Park was set aside as a national park, 1872; the Abyssinians defeated the Italian invading army at Adowa, 1896; St Dunstan's in Regent's Park was opened as a hostel for the blind, 1915; Admiral Horthy was elected Regent of Hungary, 1920; the 19-month-old son of Charles Lindbergh, aviator, was kidnapped, 1932; the Saar voted to return to Germany, 1935; the first London performance of the opera *Three Walzes* was staged, 1945; the United States tested a hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll, 1954; the Soviet spacecraft *Venus 3* touched down on Venus, 1966; after the Watergate burglary, seven of Nixon's aides were indicted, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Aubin or Albinius of Angers, St David or Dewi, St Felix III, Pope, St Rudisind or Rosendo and St Swithbert.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Linda Ellery, "The Queen of Oudhe", 2pm. Royal Society of Arts, London WC1: Jonathan Smeles, "The Earth Centre", Malcolm Barton, "Changing Places", 6pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Patricia Falkner, "Art and Myth in the Wallace Collection", 1pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Vivian Moses and Mr Michael Powell, "Science and Wealth Creation", 1pm. Royal Society of Arts, at the Society of Antiquaries, London W1: Christopher Yetton, "Monet the Poet Painter", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Peter Smith, to be Governor of the Cayman Islands. Miss Anne Prudence Wakefield and Mr Anthony Ronald Webb, to be circuit judges on the South Eastern Circuit.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, and Residuary Canon of St Paul's (London): to be the next Bishop of Southwell. The Right Rev Manawar Ramalshah, General Secretary, USPG: to be also Honorary Assistant Bishop (Southwark).

The Rev Graham Archer, Priest-in-Charge, Walton, and Chaplain, Felstead Hospital (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Priest-in-Charge, Highfield Southampton (Winchester). The Rev Fiona Ballentine, NSM Assistant Curate, Rhy Valley Team (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Assistant Curate, Sole Bay Team (same diocese). The Rev Stephen Barton, Team Vicar, Southampton (Winchester): to be Chaplain, Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust (Birmingham). The Rev Jonathan Boardman, Team Rector, Catford and Downham (Southwark): to be also Rural Dean of East Leicestershire (same diocese).

The Rev Ian Broadwood, Vicar, South Norwood St Alban (Southwark): to be Vicar, Basingstoke and Fareham (Southwark). The Rev Canon Brian Cole, Rector, Great and Little Dunham with Great and Little Frendham and Spout, and Rural Dean of Briskley and Elnham (Norwich): to be also Chairman, Diocese of Education (same diocese). The Rev Peter Gurney, Rector, Farham with Siston and Savelay and Coppyre and Ardenale (Diocese): to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral (same diocese).

The Rev David Horsfall, Vicar, Swadlow (Derby): to be also Rural Dean of Region (same diocese). The Rev Michael Langton, Priest-in-Charge, South Woodham Parva (Chelmsford): to be Rector, Overstrand, Northrepps, Sidestrand and Thringham (Norwich). The Rev Edmund Lee, Assistant Curate, Malden St James (Southwark): to be Team Vicar, Mortlake with East Sheen (same diocese). The Rev Michael Newton, Assistant Curate, Bedford St John and St Leonard (St Albans): to be Incumbent, Lifford St Francis (same diocese).

The Rev Stephen North, Curate, Westminster, and St George's (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, Marks Tey with Aldham and Little Tey (Chelmsford). The Rev Tony Shepherd, Vicar, Highgate St Peter (Ripon): to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral (same diocese). The Rev Nigel Simpson, Curate, Thirsk (the Ascension with Westgate St Martin of Tours (Blackburn): to be Priest-in-Charge, Ravensthorpe St Saviour and Thornhill Lees Holy Innocents (Wakefield).

The Rev Clive Styles, Team Vicar, Westonsfield St Augustine and St Chad (Leeds): to be Rector, Ashwellthorpe, Farncote, Pinderhill, Epton, Throston and Wraglington (Norwich). The Rev Dr Samuel Wells, Priest-in-Charge, Easton St Edmunds (Oxford): to be also Rural Dean of Norwich South (same diocese).

CASE SUMMARIES

1 MARCH 1999

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Tax

Grant and anor v Watton (HMTP): Ch D (Pumfrey J) 11 Feb 1999.

A TAX liability arose on a director under s 160 of the Taxes Act 1988 (beneficial loans to employees) and on the company under s 419 (loans to participants) where a professional practice used a service company to pay its day to day outgoings for a cost-plus fee, providing funds to the company as necessary and adjusting the final amount at the year end.

Michael Sherry (Garretts) for the taxpayers; Timothy Brennan (R Solic) for the Crown.

Sentencing

R v Turner and others; CA, Crim Div (Bracewell, Maurice Kay JJ) 11 Feb 1999.

ALTHOUGH THE exercise of judicial discretion attracted the consideration of the European Convention on Human Rights, and sentencing often involved the exercise of judicial discretion, judges were not compelled by the authorities to take the convention into account, nor were they required to give it overriding effect when they considered it together with all other relevant matters.

Martin Sharpe (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellants.

R v Lowe; R v Leask; CA, Crim Div (Lord Bingham CJ, Dyson, Smedley JJ) 12 Feb 1999.

THE IMPOSITION of a sentence to run consecutively to any period of return to prison ordered pursuant to s 40 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 was

not prohibited by s 102 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, provided the offender was not released from the s 40 term before the consecutive term was passed.

Ian Storey (Morris, White & Co, Sheffield) for Lowe; Richard Ace (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Leask; David Perry, Julie Worthington (CPS) for the Crown; Solie Bennett-Jenkins (Treasury Solicitor) as amicus curiae.

Licensing

Westminster City Council v Westminster Leisure (Restaurants) Ltd and ors; QBD, Div CJ (Brooke LJ, Thacker, Forbes JJ) 12 Feb 1999.

IN DETERMINING whether offers to provide sexual services for reward constituted a failure by a licensee to maintain good order in his premises, contrary to r 9(a) of Westminster City Council's Rules of Management for Places of Public Entertainment, the test to be applied was whether the licensee was aware of the activities.

Jeremy Carter-Manning QC, Mark Bryant-Heron (Solicitors for Westminster City Council) for the council; Ian Glenn QC, Susanna Fitzgerald (Jeffrey Green Russell) for the respondents.

Arbitration

Macob Civil Engineering Ltd v Morrison Construction Ltd; QBD, Tech and Constr Ct (Dyson J) 12 Feb 1999.

IN ENACTING the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, Parliament had not abolished arbitration and litigation of construction disputes. Its intention had been to introduce a speedy mechanism for the settling of disputes in construction contracts on a provi-

sional interim basis, and to require the decisions of arbitrators to be enforced pending the final determination of disputes by arbitration, litigation or agreement.

Debra Dunne (Morgan Cole) for the plaintiff; Stephen Furst QC (Wroge & Co) for the defendant.

Crime

R v Drew; CA, Crim Div (Waller LJ, Kay J, the Recorder of London) 15 Feb 1999.

A CHARGE of conspiracy to supply heroin could be brought against a defendant to whom the supply had been made: there was no reason why such a charge was not lawful within s 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1967, since the language of the section expressly contemplated the commission of the substantive offence by one of the defendants.

Michael Longman (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Stephen Dent (CPS) for the Crown.

Company

Re Legal Costs Negotiators Ltd; CA (Roch, Peter Gibson, Henry LJ) 18 February 1999. ON AN application by a minority shareholder to strike out a petition brought under s 459 of the Companies Act 1985 by the majority shareholders to force him to give up his investment in the company, the court could look at the realities of the case, and take a pragmatic view that the petition should not be allowed to proceed where the likelihood of the trial judge exercising his discretion to grant the relief claimed was so remote that the case could be described as perfectly hopeless.

Matthew Collings (Dobb Lupton Alsop) for the appellants; Laura Garcia-Miller (Lees Lloyd Whitley) for the respondent.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

espy, v.

call for magnanimity: "we all, like Moses, should espy, / Ev'n in a bush, the radiant Deity". Espy lived up to his name,

in time. A varied career and wives led to a first book in 1971, some about words, such as a "bottled, generally chronological" one on proper nouns, and much punning light verse. "I love the girls who don't / I love the girls who do; / But best, the girls who say: 'I don't... / But maybe just for you'." Seek out his memoirs, *Oysterville*.

The United States, in 50 easy lessons

MY FATHER, who, like all dads, sometimes seemed to be in training for The Most Boring Man In The World competition, used to have the habit, when I was a boy, of identifying and reporting the state of origin of all the cars on any highway we happened to be travelling along.

In America, as I expect you know, each state issues its own number plates, so you can tell at a glance where another car is from, which enabled my father to make trenchant observations such as, "Hey, another car from Wyoming. That's three this morning." Or, "Mississippi. Wonder what he's doing way up here?" Then he would look around hopefully to see if anyone wanted to elaborate or offer speculation, but no one ever did. He could go on like that all day, and often did.

I once wrote a book making good-natured fun of the old man for his many interesting and unusual talents when behind the wheel - the unerring ability to get lost in any city, to drive the wrong way down a one-way

street so many times that people would eventually come and watch from their doorways, or spend an entire afternoon driving around within sight of an amusement park or other eagerly sought attraction without succeeding in finding the entrance. One of my teenage children recently read that book for the first time and brought it into the kitchen where my wife was cooking, and said in a tone of amazed discovery, "But this is Dad" - meaning, of course, me.

I have to admit it. I have become my father. I even read number plates, though my particular interest is the slogans. Many states, you see, include a friendly message or nugget of information on their plates, such as "Land of Lincoln" for Illinois, "Vacationland" for Maine, "Sunshine State" for Florida, and the zippy inane "Shore Thing" for New Jersey.

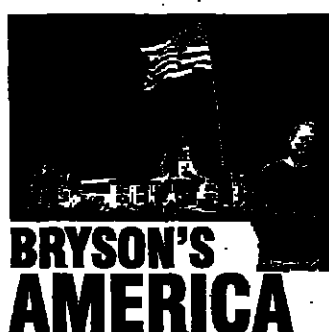
I like to make quips and comments on these so when, for instance, we see Pennsylvania's "You've Got a Friend in Pennsylvania", I turn to the

passengers and say in an injured tone, "Then why doesn't he call?" However, I am the only one who finds this amusing.

It's interesting - well, perhaps not interesting exactly, but certainly a fact - that many states append slogans that are pretty much meaningless. I have never understood what Ohio was thinking when it called itself the "Buckeye State", and I haven't the remotest idea what New York means by dubbing itself the "Empire State". As far as I'm aware, New York's many undoubted glories do not include overseas possessions.

Indiana, meanwhile, calls itself the "Hoosier State" and has done for 150 years. No one has ever deduced (possibly because no one cares?) where the term comes from, though I can tell you from experience that, if you mention this in a book, 250 people from Indiana will write to you with 250 different explanations and the unanimous opinion that you are a dunce.

All this is by way of introducing our important lesson



of the day, namely that the United States isn't so much a country as a collection of 50 small independent nations, and you forget this at your peril. It all goes back to the setting up of a federal government after the War of Independence, when the former colonies didn't trust each other. In order to keep them happy, the states were given an extraordinary range of powers. Even now each state controls all kinds of matters to do with your personal life - where, when and at what age you can legally drink; whether you may carry a concealed weapon, own

fireworks, or legally gamble; how old you have to be to drive; whether you will be killed in the electric chair by lethal injection or not at all, and how bad you have to be to get yourself in such a fix; and so on.

If I leave our town of Hanover, and drive over the Connecticut river to Vermont, I will find myself suddenly subject to perhaps 500 completely different laws. I must, among many other things, buckle my seat belt, acquire a licence if I wish to practise dentistry, and give up all hope of erecting roadside hoardings, since Vermont is one of just two states to outlaw highway advertising. On the other hand, I may carry a gun on my person with impunity, and if I am arrested for drunken driving I may legally decline to give a blood sample.

Since I always buckle up anyway, don't own a gun, and haven't the faintest desire to stick my fingers into other people's mouths, even for very good money, these matters don't impinge on me. Elsewhere,

however, the differences between state laws can be dramatic - even alarming.

States decide what may or may not be taught in their schools, and in many places, particularly the Deep South, curricula must accord with narrow religious views. In Alabama, for instance, it is illegal to teach evolution as anything other than an "unproven belief". All biology textbooks must carry a disclaimer stating "This textbook discusses evolution, a controversial theory some scientists present as a scientific explanation for the origin of living things". By law, teachers must give equal weight to the notion that Earth was created in seven days and that everything on it - fossils, coal deposits, dinosaur bones - is no more than 7,500 years old. I don't know what slogan Alabama puts on its number plates, but "Proud to Be Backward" sounds apt to me.

I shouldn't talk, because New Hampshire has some pretty retrograde laws of its own. It is the only state that declines to

observe Martin Luther King Day (the associated with communists, you see) and one of only a couple not to guarantee at least a few basic rights to gay people. Worse, it has the most demented numberplate slogan, the strange and pugnacious "Live Free or Die". Perhaps I take these things too literally, but I really don't like driving around with an explicit vow to expire if things don't go right. I would much prefer something a bit more equivocal and less terminal - "Live Free or Four" perhaps, or "Live Free If It's All the Same to You Thanks Very Much".

On the other hand, New Hampshire is the only state to guarantee in its constitution the right of the people to rise up and overthrow the government. I have absolutely no intention of exercising this option, you understand, but there is a certain comfort in having it in reserve, especially if they start messing with our schoolbooks.

Notes from a Big Country by Bill Bryson (Doubleday, £16.99)

'You go with your heart'

FAMILY AFFAIR

Andrea Levy, 43, was born in England after her parents moved here from Jamaica in 1948. She is the author of three books, 'Every Light in the House Burnin'', 'Never Far from Nowhere' and 'Fruit of the Lemon', which will be published on 11 March by Review. Her partner, Bill Mayblin, 50, is a graphic designer. He has two children, aged 22 and 20. Bill and Andrea live in north London.

Andrea

I was not an easy choice for me to go out with a white man. For a black woman to be in a relationship with a white man was still thought of as a big problem for some time after I'd met Bill. People wanted to know why I'd done it, as if I'd made a political decision. Somebody asked me had I really thought about it? All I could say was that Bill was simply the nicest man I had ever met. What else could I say? Without sounding soppy, I was with Bill because I had fallen in love with him.

It was the early Eighties: the black British identity was growing. It was very different to the England that my parents arrived in 50 years ago. My dad was one of the pioneers who came over to England on the Windrush; my mum came over six months later. I was born here and I grew up in Highbury in London. My parents thought of England as a cold Jamaica. They knew all about Britain; they felt completely British. But they hadn't come to the country they imagined. They weren't accepted, which they dealt with by keeping their heads down. They tried to be as English as possible and felt ashamed about who they were. Not getting ideas above your station was the mantra of our household.

I started life with that sense of inferiority. I felt I was different and

not good enough because I was black. Kids today don't quite realise how it was to be the only black child in the class in an inner-London school. As I got older, the politics of being black changed. "Young, Gifted and Black" was playing on the radio, and the African-American movement was talking about being black and proud. I'd say "I am English". Now to say you are black and British is one thing, but to say you're English. Woah! Somehow being English conjures up a certain colonial way of thinking, like tea on the lawn and old ladies cycling through the mist. People say to me, "Do you feel that you belong?" I say, "No, but that doesn't stop me from liking where I grew up." Liking fish and chips and Arsenal doesn't make you English, but they are identification points.

I grew more politicised about being black. I met white men who didn't want to go out with me because I was black, and white men for whom having a black girlfriend was a status symbol - their credentials as a non-racist.

When I first met Bill I was in that wonderful bubble of madness of being in love. What I liked about him was that he was so sensitive and intelligent and that he was interested in me as a person, not as an exotic specimen. When reality hit, the skeletons came clacking out of the

cupboard. There was pressure from both sides and many more moments when you're ill at ease with family or friends. Like when you meet a distant cousin for the first time and you wonder how they see you. At times I felt defensive about being with Bill. I have heard other black people justifying going out with white people by saying "I met him before I was politically aware". That seems ridiculous.

Despite everything, Bill and I got on really well and my relationship with him gave me a firm footing from which to explore life and the confidence to write books. I had thought that my history started when my dad got off the Windrush. But some years ago, I went with Bill to Jamaica. I realised that I belonged somewhere, which was such a relief. We stayed with my family and went to parts of Jamaica where there weren't any tourists. People would stare at Bill's white face, which was funny. Sometimes they were nicer to him than they were to me.

I decided not to have children quite early on, and I've never wavered. Bill has two children so being with him has enabled me to have his children in my life which has been rewarding. There are still times when being in a mixed relationship is difficult but you marry the person you love and you do what is right for you. You go with your heart.



Andrea with Bill: 'For a black woman to be in a relationship with a white man was thought of as a big problem' Neville Elder

Bill

The day I met this wonderful, vibrant person, Andrea, I thought, "Wow!" I came from a lefty background and thought my anti-racist credentials were pretty damn good. I was probably quite arrogant.

I had never really thought about the colour of my skin: we white people think that ours is the norm from which deviation is measured. Being with Andrea has made me realise that I have an ethnicity. I am a white, middle-class male, and this society is built around people like me.

My relationship has changed me. I now know that being black is more

difficult than I had thought it was; it is not a grand cause, it's a daily grind. I also became aware that I mustn't get upset about Andrea's anxieties about being with a white man. I knew I had to allow her the space of working that out.

In Jamaica I went around plantation houses as a tourist, and the history of slavery made me feel how German tourists must feel in Auschwitz. I became aware of my history as Andrea became aware of hers. At times that makes me feel uncomfortable. But you have to be able to feel proud of who you are.

The tensions we've experienced aren't from a rampant racism. It's an institutionalised racism. It's easy

for stereotypes to develop and discrimination to happen without anything ever being said. Now when I go into the countryside outside London I feel quite alien. For a black person, the country is a very different England where you get strange looks. Because of being with Andrea, I feel this is not where I belong.

The Stephen Lawrence case has forced people to think quite hard about every aspect of racism. I don't think I have to apologise to Andrea for the actions of other people. But I do think I have to carry the knowledge of what white racism has done over the years. Ultimately, we're just two human beings getting on with our lives together, but when

we talk about racial issues I realise I have to run to keep up with Andrea.

My relationship with Andrea had changed me profoundly. The fact that I am a white man sharing a life with a black woman has enriched my life enormously. But, of course, I'm thinking of Andrea the person. We talk about everything: it's a very symbiotic relationship.

People used to say to us "How can you live and work together?" I used to wonder how was it possible for people to communicate well if they didn't spend so much time together. I am grateful for our relationship. I am also bursting with pride.

INTERVIEWS BY ANN MCFERRAN

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices	Charities
<p>NO. 007449 of 1998 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF MOLINEUX SWAN HOLDINGS LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10th February, 1998, concerning the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £37,000,000 to £1,000,000 and the Maute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were considered by the Registrar of Companies on 22nd February, 1998.</p> <p>Dated this 24th day of February, 1999</p> <p>George Gracie & Co. 195 High Street, Crawley Heath, West Midlands B64 5HW Ref WGG Solicitors for the above-named Company</p>	<p>THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986 PRELIMINARY REPRODUCTION LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that Stephen Franklin of 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 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1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362</p>

When the best laid plans are turned on their side

The winner of the Ideal Home Concept House could give us the answer to our housing problems. By Nonie Niesewand

The Ideal Home exhibition is where you discover the slightly naff things that you think you can't live without. The Butler in the Box that turns off the central heating and puts on the television set and burglar alarm when you leave the house; the pavement sweeper in the slipstream of pets; genetically modified daffodils that bloom in late summer.

This is the place to test British ingenuity in designing knock-knocks and incredibly Useful Things for the home. But it hasn't been the place to find cutting-edge architecture since the Fifties, when the Smithsons shocked Earl's Court with their House of the Future, including kidney-shaped coffee tables and built-in hostess trolleys.

This year we are in for a surprise, with a house of the future that could change the way our cities look. Pierre d'Avoigne's Slim House has won the Ideal Home Concept House for the last show of the century.

The Slim House meets all the Housing Association demands for three-bedroom housing, and it costs just £45,000. He has laid the three-storey terraced house on its side as a single storey and then planted lawns on the flat roof.

Unusually for a cutting-edge modernist, Pierre d'Avoigne likes the British suburbs. His Invisible House, now on site at Ealing in London and the subject of a Channel 4 documentary in April, is just that - invisible. It bunks into the ground below street level and the approach is through the garage doors into a light-filled one-bedroom house.

Designed specifically for a suburban back garden, it can be eased into the small-scale landscape of fences, hedges, sheds, pergolas, shrubbery, compost and lawns without disruption. All you see from the road is the picket fence it hides behind. Pierre d'Avoigne says he designed it as "an antidote to the over-assertive suburban fabric".

Sometimes this unobtrusiveness counts against him. Slim House hasn't even been built yet for the Ideal Home exhibition, but already it has lost the style trial. *Wallpaper* magazine and *Elle Decoration* highlight the sexy curves and triffid-like pods of the second

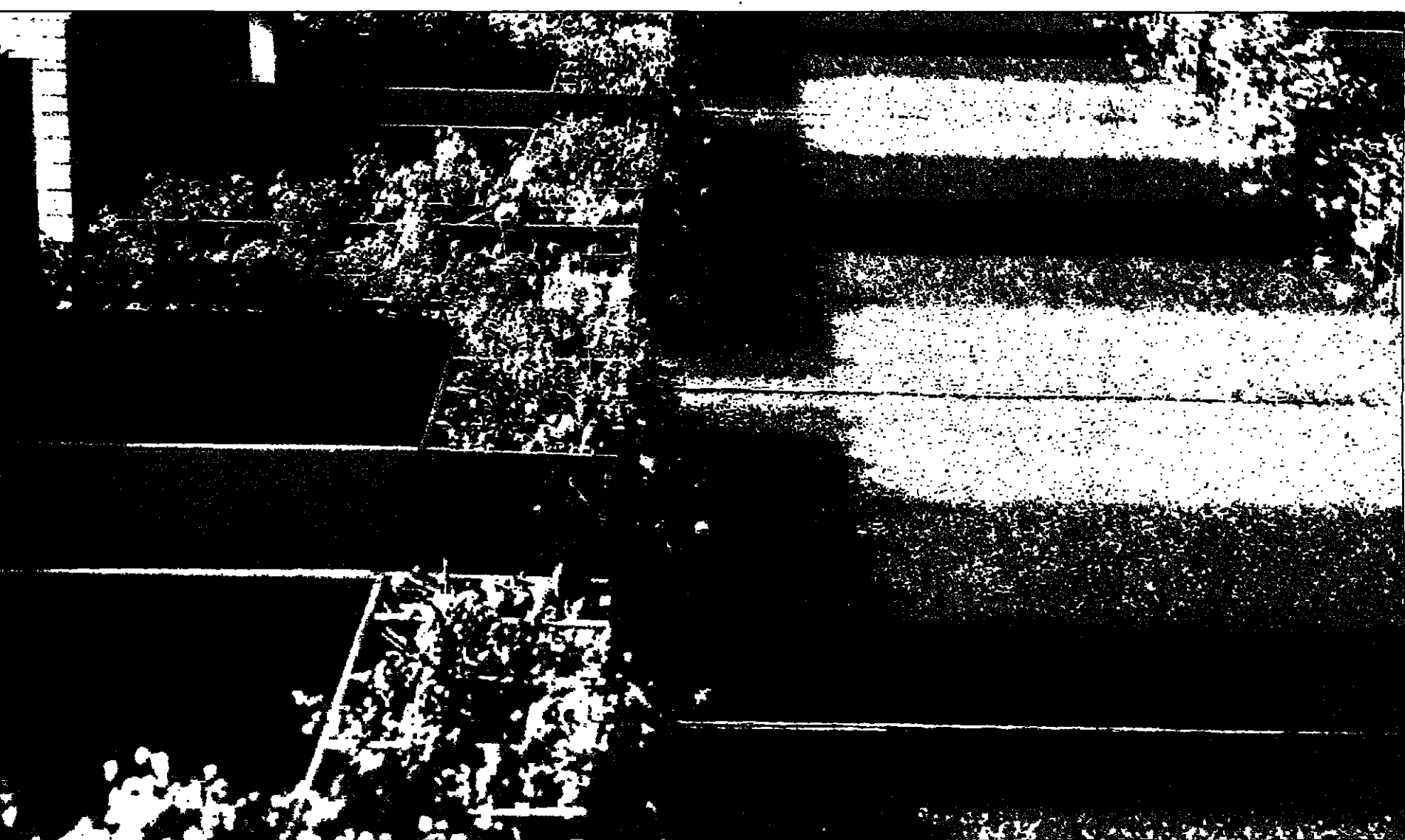
and third prizewinners of the Concept House, rather than the earnest presentation by d'Avoigne. "We've never gone for glossy interpretation. We didn't have the hard-hitting, seductive glam shots."

As the 12 judges sifted the 150 entries, d'Avoigne's Slim House wasn't an obvious winner. But the more they looked at his simple plans, the more they liked the 25-metre-long house. At the front a double-height room faces the street. Behind it, other rooms lead off the 16-metre-long gallery. All rooms have full-height, glazed sliding doors opening on to paved terrazzo courtyards. A raised threshold from the street to the front door is covered - useful for prams and pushchairs - while mopeds and bikes can be bolted to the metal railings. "The brief asked us to look at transport issues for the city. We deliberately didn't want to include a garage," the architect says.

The roof is an egg-box crate material called Bauder XF307 which drains off rainwater to feed it back into the lawns. One of the problems of flat roofs - drainage - is thus met. The only time it leaks is if gardeners take a pitchfork to the lawn; but then, as d'Avoigne points out, the communal roof gardens aren't allotments. The space behind each pavilion houses pigeon coops, rabbit hutches, containers, window boxes and sheds.

All rooms open out on to courtyards like secret gardens to breathe life - as well as light - into the core of the house. Not since Le Corbusier's tracts in the Twenties, concerning the need for architects to facilitate healthy living and sunshine with their modern buildings, has there been so much attention paid to air circulation and ventilation. Conventional extractors have been replaced with eco-chic models that breathe in condensation and then warm the air and distribute it through underfloor heating ducts. All within an easy, prefab, steel-framed construction kit that should make it a des res for developers.

"The showhouse as a medium to try out new ideas on housing has been limited in this country by property developers blocking architects," d'Avoigne says. "Also, let's face it, architects have been unwilling to be populist and mainstream."



The Slim House design: a three-storey terraced house laid flat into one storey with lawns on its flat roof, costing just £45,000

Pierre d'Avoigne

Even on such a modest scale, the realities of building inside Olympia at the Ideal Home exhibition mean that his concept won't be fully realised. Only three terraced houses instead of five, and no access to the roof garden because of the need for wheelchair ramps, plus the space taken up by public viewing-platforms.

However, even when concept houses do get tried and tested it doesn't mean that property developers will risk building them. The Oyster House prototype by Nigel Coates, last year's Ideal Home winner, was a detached suburban house costing £100,000.

After the show it was binned - though Bath University wants to install the Oyster House on its campus for students to live in and learn from.

As an experiment for students of architecture and a talking-point, the Oyster House is great, but it isn't exactly Britain's answer to housing in the future. By 2010 we need more than 4 million new homes and this year's Concept House really could be the answer.

The prizewinning designs will be on show at the Royal Institute of British Architects in Portland Street, London, from Wednesday 3 March.

Reinventing Bexhill-on-Sea

Win a prize, design a bandstand. Niall McLaughlin did. By Nonie Niesewand

ERICH MENDELSON designed the glamorous de la Warr Pavilion at Bexhill-on-Sea, Surrey in 1939 so that it would have a small bandstand on its seaward side. The colonnaded bandstand on the eastern side would complete the sweeping levels and concrete curves of Early Modernism. The bandstand was never built, but that didn't stop bathing belles with goose pimples and beach balls prancing about on the terraces at weekends, to the delight of the *Sunday Mirror* photographer who recorded their antics.

Now the Friends of the de la Warr Trust have stumped up £30,000 for a bandstand. It doesn't envisage brass bands playing on it, or beach ball troupes. It just wants to create a bit more space in the seaside town, a centre that doubles for the performing arts. It even wants the bandstand to be movable, like a piece of stage gear. It ran a competition with the Royal Institute of British Architects to find an architect who would be appropriate, 70 years on, to pay homage to Britain's first Modernist, yet bring to it a suitably Nineties spin.

Niall McLaughlin won. He is passionately enthusiastic about Mendelsohn's extraordinarily heroic building. "Mendelsohn wrote very movingly about architecture that encompassed what he called 'the flood of



Erich Mendelsohn's de la Warr Pavilion

recognition," he says. "That is what makes his building so popular with inhabitants, not the shock of the new. It's true that this big, white albatross of a building set amid the Thirties-style semis has always been tremendously popular. But now that both town and architecture have moved on, Bexhill-on-Sea needs something up-to-date, with that star quality."

What drew the judges' attention was that McLaughlin saw a need for the bandstand to have "a certain rhythm in its composition". Rather than draw up plans for a pack-flat bandstand, he sensibly decided to solve the "de-mountable" issue by looking to extend the structure rather than move it to suit any eventuality.

He convinced the judges of the need to involve local school-

children in the design, which he learnt from working with schoolchildren to design a bandstand in Dublin six months ago. "Kids begin with an object. Then, as they explore that space, they see light, and trees and neighbouring homes. The bandstand becomes a set of relationships, not a designer statement in isolation."

He also showed the judges slides of some of his previous projects. There is the wall of umbrellas he built with Phil Tabor and students at the Bartlett where he teaches. And an installation with the artist Martin Richardson involving covering the Riba floor with soap powder, then coloured with cones of blue light. "Not all of them liked it," he admits. "But at least they began exploring the space, and that's

what architecture is all about." There is a curiously seductive quality about McLaughlin's buildings. They have the "wish-you-were-there" factor, what Mendelsohn calls that "flood of recognition".

There is the Shack, in Northampton, built for a photographer and inspired by the Stealth bombers that used to land at the old airfield there. The outline of that awesome war machine can be seen in the imprint of the building, which he gracefully cantilevered out over water in a thrusting wing.

Then there is the Carmelite Priory in Kensington, London. "Angels' wings from Lippi's *Annunciation* at the National Gallery became a swooping pinion turned sideways, pulled into the roof to direct light into the sacristy. If you need to know it's an angel's wing, then it hasn't worked."

This contemplative space uses other Renaissance tricks, such as the use of a loggia as a threshold between interior and exterior, whereas the house he designed as home in Knightsbridge uses overhead roof light - "like fish spiralling up to the light, to make people move through the building. The top floor is flooded with it." He had no trouble getting planning permission, which is why he is painlessly fitting a radical new piece of geometry, featuring wraparound corner windows, into a country house extension.

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At the peak of her practice

Amanda Burton is now a fixture on television's A-list. So what will her next move be? By Brian Viner

Forgotten, a three-part ITV thriller set in an idyllic Cotswolds village, concludes tonight. The series has gone relatively unnoticed by critics, which is a shame, for it is stylish and gripping, and is graced by wonderful performances from Paul McGann and Amanda Burton. Burton plays a woman driven to the edge of sanity - and possibly beyond - by memories of her young daughter's abduction and murder. As she seeks to trap Ben (played by McGann), the man she believes to be responsible, it seems likely that she has herself committed murder. Tonight we shall find out.

Whether or not her character Rachel is guilty of murder, the part marks a departure for Burton, whom we associate with tough-but-sensitive do-gooders in hit series such as *Peak Practice* and *Silent Witness*. That is not to say, however, that she has shirked challenging roles. In Lucy Gannon's drama *The Gift*, she was heartbreakingly yet unconvincingly convincing as a mother dying of cancer. She also managed the near-impossible, by making an accountant (Heather Haversham in *Brookside*) both interesting and sexy. Since her *Brookside* days, Burton has become, according to one admiring television executive, one of the very few actors whose involvement is enough to "green-light" a project.

Burton is 42, slight and almost disconcertingly serene. She has twinkly eyes and dancing eyebrows, and speaks with a soft Northern Irish accent, which on television she carries from character to character. Her heritage is important to her, even though she remains confused by it.

"I was born into a Protestant family, but I was always drawn to Catholic culture," she says. "As a girl, I was very much into Irish music and literature, and at school I helped to instigate a lot of inter-denominational activity, debating societies and things, but I never felt particularly accepted by either the Protestant or the Catholic community. Also, my mother was English, from Manchester, and had come with no agenda to live in Ireland."

Burton grew up in a village near the Donegal border, where her father was a headmaster. She has fond memories of her early childhood, but then came the Troubles, which more or less coincided with the onset of puberty - double trouble, if you like. This was significant, because Burton's social life was ripped in the bud at an impressionable age.

"I remember people wearing their religion on their foreheads like a number, that feeling of know-

ing from the silence that you shouldn't be in a particular pub; and I remember drunken soldiers roaming the streets at eight in the morning. Partly as a result of all that, I came out of Ireland rather shy. I certainly didn't burst out of Ireland."

In 1975 she embarked on a drama course at Manchester Polytechnic - "it was the nearest place I could find to Ireland" - and then, following an improbable television debut on *The Red and the White*, got the job on *Brookside*. She grew close to her colleague Sue Johnston, who is godmother to one of Burton's two daughters by the photographer Sven Arnstein. "Suddenly," she recalls, "I had a sense of belonging. *Brookside* really was like a family. And it gave me so much confidence."

Ironically, that new-found confidence drove her to leave the programme after four years. Unlike many soap stars, she managed to reinvent herself, as Dr Beth Glover in *Peak Practice*, but quickly reappeared on our screens as a pathologist in *Silent Witness*. This too was a hit, placing Burton with David Jason and Nick Berry on an exclusive list of actors who carry huge ratings with them wherever they go.

Burton enjoyed *Silent Witness*, but paid a heavy price emotionally. "I had such disturbing dreams," she says. "I kept waking in the middle of the night with thoughts of performing an autopsy. It was awful, but I've got rid of it now."

Characteristically, she has refused to pledge herself to *Silent Witness*, and intends to keep looking for fresh challenges. "I suppose I'm an old Proddie at heart," she says. "I really believe in the work ethic, that if you work hard it makes a difference, and that if you are doing well, you have to work even harder."

Professionally, one of her keenest ambitions is to play a real person - "a pioneer such as Amelia Earhart, or someone otherwise instrumental in great change". She also has plans to produce a drama about medieval women who were forced by the conventions of the time to write anonymously. "I find suppression very interesting," she says.

On a personal level, too, she knows exactly what she wants. "My parents moved to Cheshire and my children have never been to Ireland. I'm desperate to see my daughter playing the violin in a small Irish village pub." If there is silence as she plays, Burton hopes that, this time, it will be silence of the right sort.

'Forgotten' concludes tonight at 9pm on ITV



Amanda Burton: 'I really believe in the work ethic, that if you work hard it makes a difference'

Sven Arnstein/Stay Still

Surf quake

POP

DEAD MAN'S CURVE
100 CLUB
LONDON

WHEN DEAD Man's Curve released their first single "SurfQuake" it was accompanied by a State of California Public Safety Leaflet. "Get safe for the quake!" it warned. "Make sure your house is bolted to its foundations." On Thursday London's 100 Club was subjected to 80 minutes of thunderous reverb while these five instrumentalists proved their status as the tyrants of twang.

Surf specialists need good song titles and the band were off to a flying start with "Perranporth Pipeline", a high-speed duel between the twin guitars of Dead Men Django and Buzz T. They kept their feet on the board for the spy theme "Agent Orange" and then offered a bat-black cover of The Mootniks' "Night of the Vampire". Front man Django is a master of the distortion pedal, kicking it hard during the cool drift of "Big Thursday".

If you don't know what surf tunes sound like, imagine The Shadows playing at double speed. Even better, try standing on top of a moving train. "Transuring" prepared the ground for the even more dangerous "Rumble". Link Wray's 1958 gang-fight blaster was the only instrumental ever to be banned from the radio, and Dead Man's Curve gave it the treatment it deserved. The drummer Gus Deadman crashed along while those infamous chords resounded up front.

The 100 Club crowd was on the move now and, as the band tore on, spasmodic dancing erupted, encouraged by songs such as "The West before White Men" and "Blacktop Blackout". This tune about a rocket-powered car that gets embedded in a cliff face ended the main set, but Dead Man's Curve were not allowed to leave the building. They returned quickly for "Charlie's Point", a simulated VC ambush using guitars instead of machine-guns. Fortunately, Django's Fender and Buzz's Maton remained intact for the band's favourite, the one they'd kept until last.

"Hawaii Five-O" was their last chance if they were going to surf safely over the heads of the crowd and home to south London. They made it in one mad final dash, and escaped with sweat dripping from their black dragon shirts. Dead Man's Curve's last album was called *World Catastrophe Generator* and there's a new one on the way entitled *We will prevail*. This is a band that live and breathe surf and they somehow manage to do it without the fear of drowning.

MAGNUS MILLS

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1931 a New Jersey television station became the first to schedule films regularly. Mainly travel documentaries, early slots included *People Who Live in the Desert* and a log rollercoaster entitled *Lumbering in British Columbia*.

Tomorrow The first television service for schools started 50 years ago in Philadelphia on Station WPTZ. Operation Blackboard was transmitted to 20 schools, which possessed large-screen sets.

Wednesday Theatre audiences no longer had to worry about the weather, when the first purpose-built covered auditorium opened in 1585. The Teatro Olimpico in Vincenza, Italy, is still in use today and its first production, *Oedipus Rex*, is still showing occasionally at a highbrow stage near you.

Thursday In 1877 the Russian Imperial Ballet in Moscow put on the first production of *Swan Lake*; critics initially thought Tchaikovsky's music was about as successful as his brief (three months) marriage.

The song "Happy Birthday to You" was published in 1923, and in 1966 John Lennon remarked, "We're more popular than Jesus Christ right now," which led to a period of unpopularity.

Friday Rex Harrison was born in 1906; six times married. "Sexy Ruxy" played Dr Dolittle opposite Samantha Eggar, born on the same day 31 years later.

Saturday Nasally-challenged writer Cyrano de Bergerac was born in 1619. The 1,000 duels he

fought over his hooter inspired the play by Rostand, the film with Gérard Philipe and the updated *Roxanne* with Steve Martin. Premiered in Cardiff in 1987, *Coming Up Roses* was the first feature film in Welsh on general release, a Celtic version of *The Last Picture Show*.

Sunday The first jazz record was released in the USA in 1917: *The Dixie Jazz Band One Step* recorded by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. Pieter Mondrian was born in 1872; as a painter he jettisoned colours, curves and the double-A in his name. The large transvestite known as Divine passed away in 1988; he had starred in John Waters' film *Pink Flamingos*, in which he acquired a taste for fresh poodle droppings.

JONATHAN SALE

Over the top, in your face

CLASSICAL

LSO/MAAZEL
BARBICAN
LONDON

A CENTURY on, Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* Symphony still retains the power to devastate. Wednesday night's Barbican performance by the London Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel concluded with an account of the slow finale that was so heartfelt, so relentlessly intense, that when the last notes sounded and the bass players finally rested their bows, it was a full half-minute before anyone dared to applaud.

The earlier movements had been played with a maddening combination of technical brilliance and interpretative idiosyncrasy that, over the years, has become Maazel's trademark. Nobody could have wished for a more viscerally exciting March-scherzo, but why ham things up by broadening the pace for the last lap? Tchaikovsky asks for the second movement's sighing central trio to be played "sweetly but mourn-

fully", and yet Maazel's account breezed from one section to the next without so much as a raised eyebrow. The first movement opened without ceremony, then came to the boil for a ferocious development, capriciously prepared by Andrew Marriner's descending clarinet line. Occasionally, I felt that Maazel was pushing his players just a little too far, and yet, viewed overall, the performance worked wonderfully well. As "second halves" go, it was one hell of a concert.

But then there was the first half, where Maazel played solo violin and the Bavarian-born Wolfgang Gierzon took the baton. Bartok came

first, his lovely First Portrait, though Maazel strayed rather too far from the note's centre and Gierzon pushed the tempo too hard for the big climax. The piece first sprang to life as the opening movement of a fully fledged Violin Concerto, and that was how Maazel played it.

The "Portrait" idea came later, and works only if tailored by the brief but bitter variation that makes up the second Portrait, which wasn't performed at Wednesday's concert.

It is often said - indeed often proved - that composers can make excellent conductors, but whether the opposite is true is open to some debate. Maazel's versatile orchestra is a kind of performable encyclopedia of 20th-century musical gestures, which, on Wednesday's showing, sounded unobtrusive, excessively discursive, over-long and wearisomely

hyperactive, a sort of "Alban Berg meets Franz Waxman". The solo line defies current fashion by employing the violin in a gratuitously virtuosic role, and Maazel's blatantly over-the-top playing fitted the bill perfectly. His are the interpretative manners of an earlier age, with sentimental slides, lashings of vibrato and an almost confrontational degree of emotional engagement. Quite refreshing, I thought, though his overblown, even rather sinister, orchestration of Fritz Kreisler's wistful Gypsy Caprice had all the charm of Bela Lugosi perched on a Gothic pulpit.

Just a couple of hours earlier, while driving into the Barbican Centre, I heard a Radio 3 *In Tune* broadcast of Maazel playing the same piece, but with its original piano accompaniment - a far more palatable experience.

ROB COWAN

The shallow end of the gene pool

EDWARD ALBEE gave us *Three Tall Women*. Now, in *The Four Alice Bakers*, Fay Weldon gives us "Three Cloned Women" and any number of issues, but fails to deliver one decent play. The long first act takes for ever to reach the revelation that has already been disclosed in all the Birmingham Rep's publicity, and is, indeed, the book of the piece.

Far from constituting your average family - one possible victim of childhood abuse, one possible lesbian, one case of a male mind trapped in a female body - the grown-up Baker daughters are, in fact, genetically identical clones, developed from his barren wife's mammary tissue by a genetic scientist, Professor Richie Baker.

The circumstances of this dis-

closure, and the play's glibly satiric framework, is a television programme, the *The Harry Harper Ethical Show*, whose epiphanous host seems to be a purrulent, shiny-musical-hall cross between Jerry Springer, Archie Rice in *The Entertainer* and Bryan Appleyard. The promising obscenity of this conception declines to live on stage, though. There's a built-in deadening disparity between the unseen, notional, noisily aroused studio audience whose prejudices Harry shamelessly manipulates, and the real-life audience at *The Four Alice Bakers*, who simply can't give actor Michael Cashman the buzz and energy Harry thrives on.

The result, in Bill Alexander's production, is inert and embar-

THEATRE
THE FOUR ALICE BAKERS
BIRMINGHAM REP

assing and does not stop you noticing the implausibilities, human and technical. Would Baker, supposedly the current chair of the Society for the Public Understanding of Science, really be so lacking in media savvy as to appear on this programme in the first place, particularly given his secret? And why do the television cameras (and the images on the monitors scattered around the stage) not home in on the real action in the studio? There's some ludicrously

anti-dramatic framing here, such as leaving the narcissistic host completely out of shot when he kneels to make a climactic, soulful appeal to one of the guests.

But then the play, which shuttles undynamically between the studio, a hospitality suite suspended in mid-air, and flashbacks unfolded on a curving revolve, is a feast of misplaced emphases. The articles in the published programme are, it turns out, more interesting than the drama on the technical and ethical issues which arise from cloning. Rather than stimulate debate, Weldon's play precludes it. *The Four Alice Bakers*, in effect, says: "Look, people will be no less individuals when they are cloned and, if reasonable, they won't mind. And here is

my proof - three daughters who eventually calm down and see the unthreatening sense of it." But this allegedly argument-clinching family is the entire invention of Weldon and, besides, did not grow up in the knowledge that they were clones. So the argument is whoppingly rigged.

I really admire the way Bill Alexander is unafraid of giving over the huge main stage of the Rep to dramas that tackle key issues of the moment - the debate about royalty and republicanism in Peter Whelan's award-winning *Divine Right* and, less successfully, press intrusion in David Lodge's *Home Truths*. I hope the dismal reception invited by this current dud will not deter him from pursuing this policy in the future.

PAUL TAYLOR



Michael Cashman as Harry Harper

Tristram Kenton

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NETWORK

The technology to control all our home appliances has finally arrived. By Cliff Joseph

Link up to the future

If you're one of those people who still have trouble programming the video, just wait until you see what Sun Microsystems and Sony have got lined up for you. Recently, some of the world's largest computer and consumer electronics companies have been queuing up to announce "home networking" initiatives.

The idea of the networked home isn't new, of course. There have been several attempts to produce "the home of the future", in which electrical items such as lights, television set and washing machine are all linked and controlled by a central computer. There was even a cult film, *Demon Seed*, in which Julie Christie's computerised home took a fancy to her and impregnated her with a silicon baby that looked like a Dualit toaster.

None of these attempts has ever got off the drawing-board, but recent announcements from Microsoft and its various rivals suggest that they're making some real progress at last. The most ambitious home network initiative was announced by Sun Microsystems, the company that developed the Java programming language, in January. For several months, Sun has been working on a project called Jini (pronounced "jenie"). Jini is based on Java, and any device can be "Jini-enabled" by adding a low-cost computer chip that can understand Java programming commands. This means that just about any electrical device you can think of can become part of a Jini network - computers, cameras, VCRs, even your toaster and your kettle.

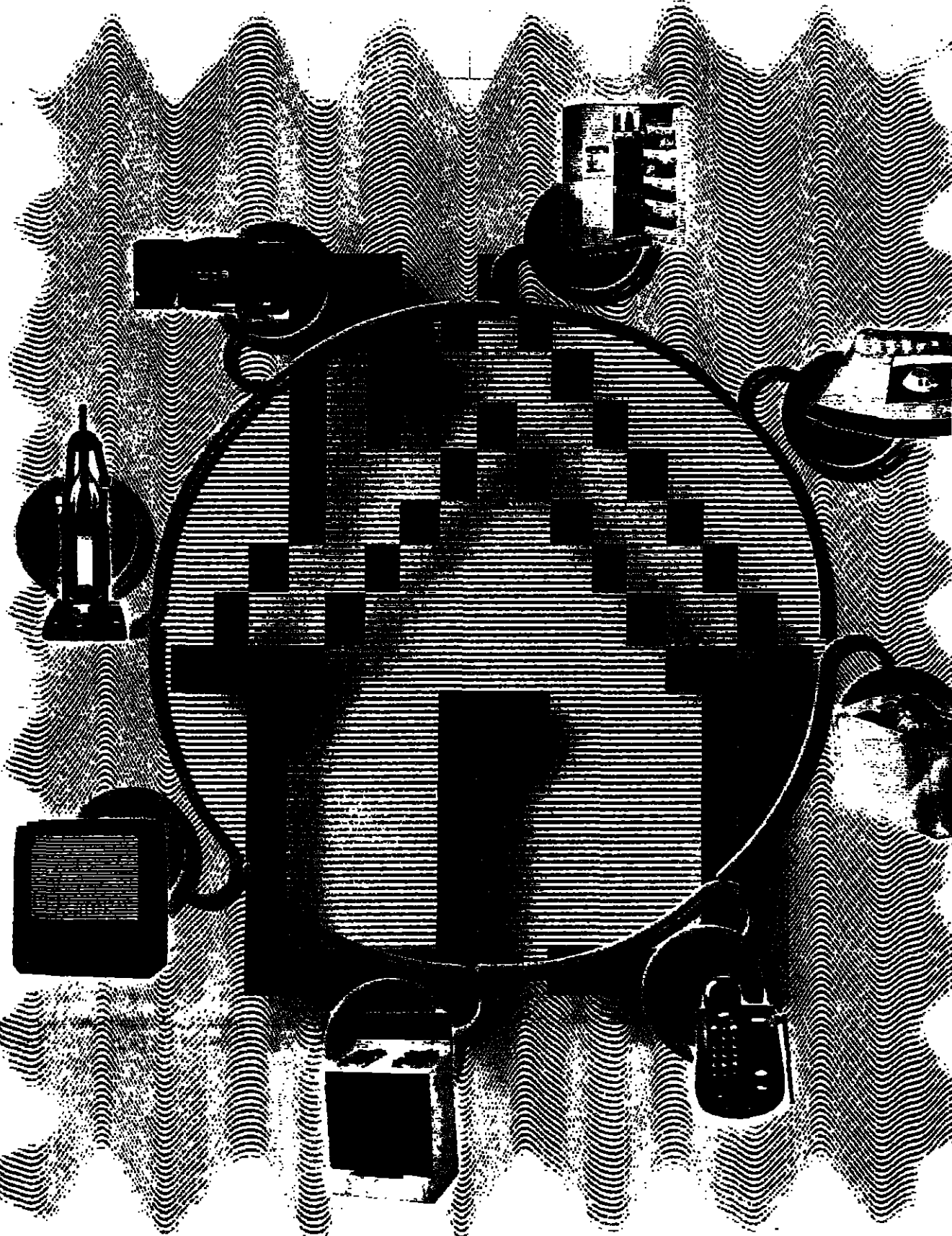
When you plug a device into the Jini network, it announces its presence to a central device called a lookup service. This makes a note of all the devices connected to the network and acts as a kind of switchboard that allows them to communicate with each other. Suppose you were on holiday and you wanted to print some pictures that you'd taken with a digital camera. When you got back to your hotel room you could plug your camera into the hotel's Jini network. The camera would send a message to the lookup service saying: "Hi, I'm a camera and I'm looking for a printer." The lookup service would then locate the nearest printer on the network and connect the camera to the printer for you.

Extend this idea into your home and you could have a universal remote control unit that controls just about every electrical item in your home, from a simple light switch to your central heating system or more conventional devices such as the CD player and VCR.

But the really impressive thing about Jini is that it's not limited to individual locations. Kinko's, the international chain of printing shops, has said that it could use Jini on the Internet to allow people to send documents to printing equipment in any of its bureaux worldwide. This means that Jini has the potential to create a new worldwide network that is even faster than the Internet.

"We're far away from the average citizen understanding what this means," said Billy Moon of Ericsson, which plans to develop Jini-enabled mobile phones and pagers in the near future. "But the potential of Jini is enormous - everything can be on the network."

Needless to say, Microsoft isn't very keen on the idea of a worldwide network that is based on Java. It wants the world to use its Windows technology, so Microsoft recently announced its Universal Plug and Play initiative. Universal Plug and Play is a more limited system than Jini, as it concentrates primarily on interconnecting devices within the home. Microsoft lined up an impressive list of companies to announce their support for its plans, including Intel, AT&T, Compaq and Dell. However, details of exactly how Universal Plug and Play will work remain vague. This is in contrast to Sun's demonstration of Jini, which showed the system in operation, controlling a number of devices.



This suggests that the Universal Plug and Play announcement was merely a spoiler, intended to draw attention away from its arch-rival, Sun. But Microsoft might have been better off worrying about competition from outside the computer industry. The opening speech at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month was given by Howard Stringer of Sony, which has joined several other consumer electronics companies to launch a home networking system called HAVI - home audio/video interoperability.

HAVI is the most modest of these home networking systems. It isn't designed to link your toaster to your television or to any other appliance in your home. Instead, it focuses specifically on audio and video equipment such as CD players, VCRs and television sets. Any HAVI device on a network can make use of the

features and facilities of any other device, so a typical HAVI network would use the screen of a TV as the main interface to your VCR, CD or DVD player. "Your digital television will become the centre-piece, the nerve centre of the home of the future," said Stringer. "It will perform the one magic trick that consumers want most of all, allowing them seamlessly to access their PC and audio-video functions from a single control."

Sony and the other HAVI organisers claim that they will release their first HAVI equipment before the end of this year, and they are also working with Sun to allow HAVI and Jini to work together. This means that HAVI could be used as the main networking system inside individual homes, and could also act as the link that connects your home to a wider, global Jini network.

But before all this interoperability and network working can take place, computer manufacturers and consumer electronics companies must co-operate to ensure that all their products can work together properly. Sony recognises this and Stringer argues that "we have to change the way we do business. There must be an unprecedented level of co-operation."

However, if you look at the list of companies in the HAVI group - including Sony, Hitachi, Matsushita and Philips - you see that these same companies have spent the last few years squabbling over seven different versions of the DVD format. In other words, the networked home may be technically possible, but it's not going to happen unless the consumer electronics industry gets its act together for a change. That's bad news for gadget freaks, but at least Julie Christie can relax for a while.

What is Bill Gates up to?

The trial isn't over, but Microsoft seems to have its own plans. By Andrew Marshall

MICROSOFT IS on the defensive. As the US government's massive anti-trust case trial went into recess last week, the company was battered and bruised, with its case looking more than shaky and with few friends in the media to defend it.

What had looked like a classic legal wrestling bout between giants has increasingly seemed a mismatch, as the company has been frequently routed. Its spin doctors continue blithely to deny this, but they are increasingly out of kilter with what is said and written.

Credibility has been at the core of its problems: repeatedly, Microsoft witnesses have lacked it. A demonstration of how its browser could not be disentangled from the Windows operating system proved to be flawed; James Allchin, a Microsoft vice-president, admitted that many of the benefits that the company claimed from integrating the two could equally well be obtained from simply buying both Windows 95 and Internet Explorer separately. David Rosen, another key witness, was simply dismissed by the US government's lawyers after his evidence had clearly contradicted the facts, other witnesses, or his own statements too many times.

The government contends that Microsoft had monopoly power, which the company denies. But its senior vice-president, Joachim Kempin, said last week that when he sets prices, he goes by the prices of other Microsoft products, not competitors - a tacit admission that there is no competition. The government has set out how, through bargains, side deals, pressure and argument, Microsoft parlayed that into advantage in the market-place. The company claims that it is not its fault if its competitors are not so hot, that nothing it has done has been illegal, and that consumers benefit. But it is losing the argument.

So what now? In the short term, the case will reconvene in a month or so. But in the longer term, the industry and legal experts are starting to cast forward to the next steps: how the case ends, whether the appeal succeeds, and what may happen to Microsoft if it loses.

The company may be relying on its appeal fight, which will probably go first to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals later this year, and then to the US Supreme Court. If so, it should probably think again; few of the lawyers who have examined its case think it has a strong chance of getting its way there. What seems more likely is that the company may have to adapt to a new world in which it is forced either to license Windows to other users or split up.

Microsoft is already working on things that go beyond Windows 98. The first tantalising glimpse of what they could be came from John Dvorak, of PC magazine, last week. He presented a vision of Windows 2001, or "Neptune" as he says it is code-named. It looks uncannily like the product Microsoft is defending in court - something that genuinely melds the operating system with its browser - but it doesn't yet exist.



Bill Gates may yet have to scrap his plans for the future

outside a company presentation which Dvorak says he was given anonymously.

Microsoft's aim, says Dvorak, quoting in-house documents, is to "create a more valuable consumer PC by removing complexity, adding relevancy, connecting it to everything, and making it easy to operate". It is a Web-centred system, with a task-focused approach that builds every function around a start page. Manufacturers can mould this entry point to their own machines. It is aimed at the general household user, the growing market that has boosted computer sales in the US as people take to the Net in droves.

The central contention that Microsoft made in selling Windows 98, and that it is fighting to defend in court, is that there is - already - no distinction between the operating system and the browser; they are a seamless unity. Windows 98 goes some way towards proving that for users, but only so far: there are still too many times when it is blindingly obvious that the two live in neighbouring but parallel universes.

However, the company has made it clear that this is the path it wants to go down. Why, for instance, did it not allow manufacturers to change Windows to separate off the browser and use others? "As you know, the browser is part of Windows," says Kempin. "We did not like people to butcher the Windows operating system... We design our products with a certain amount of pride and we are keen that they get presented to the user as we presented them." The government says the issue is control over the browser market; the company says it is about software, consumers and design. "The bottom line for Microsoft is protecting our ability to innovate and add new features for consumers," says a company spokesman, Mark Murray.

Though it is still early days, the conjunction of speculation about Microsoft's next software move and its corporate future after the trial is suggestive. As Dvorak points out, if Neptune is the future, then Microsoft still appears intent on, to put it mildly, leveraging the strength of its operating system into the Internet. It is also moving closer to integrating this with its forays on the Web as a content provider. If this company is to be broken up or forced to license its operating system to all comers, Bill Gates may have to make some, pretty abrupt changes of strategy.

We have the technology

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So what is the subject of this particular fortnightly dispatch? Why, people of course. And not just the geeky techno people either. People, not technology, will shape the future - on the Web and everywhere else.

The networked world means that advances in one area are quickly borrowed, developed and launched into other areas, where further development results in yet more advanced concepts, and so on.

Technological pace seems locked into an ever-increasing rate of change. Moore's law has already had its doors blown off, and we've hardly begun.

This century has seen humanity go from horsedrawn



CHRIS GULKER

It is people, not technology, who will shape the future

cart to interplanetary space probe. Most schoolchildren have a greater grasp of science and culture than did whole kingdoms of nobility a millennium ago, even if their reading skills aren't much better.

It's true that technology threatens to widen the opportunity gap between the technologically literate and those less so. History teaches us that big gaps between the haves and have-nots lead to social disruptions and revolution.

Nevertheless, mere working-class stuffs can do things, such as fly to New York, that not even a king could have done a few generations ago. Global communications have made the world seem rife with human horror. Yet today we are far more likely to survive childhood and reach a mature old age than people 100 or 200 years ago.

No matter how fast technology moves, there are real limits in this world, and those are the limits of living, breathing human beings. There is a limit to our interest in anything, including technology.

We spent hundreds of thousands of years evolving and those hard-won Darwinian advantages don't quickly disappear. Stephen Hawking estimates that the human genome changes by only a few bits (in a trillion) every thousand years. Technology adds billions of bits to human knowledge probably hourly.

But in gauging which technology will be the next big winner we don't have to look much further than P.T. Barnum, or Shakespeare for that matter. They excelled at pressing their

respective eras' technologies into profitable service by understanding the needs and wants of their audiences. Barnum's "sucker born every minute" philosophy was the basis for a three-ring empire.

And, in 1999, I'd be wise to back technology companies that focus on who people are and what they need. Just look at the 100 most-often-entered search terms - they're very, very human (sex, of course, is first).

Of course, people need a computer and an Internet connection before they can get to the search engines, so those sorts of companies are good investments. They need instruction manuals and websites that update with the ever-changing information needed to get around in cyberspace.

In short, all we have to do is draw a line between a human and his or her needs and tick off all the technological dots necessary to connect the points into a line. Call it linear human Net-trajectory plotting. Or common sense. There's a Web page born every minute. cg@gulker.com

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The over-fifties go online

Setting up a company to help older people get to grips with the Net has been a learning experience for its two young founders, but now they're going from strength to strength. By Rachel Thackray

IT has been a roller-coaster year for the Internet duo Emma Solomon and Caroline Lambie. Their scheme, Hairnet, which they founded in 1997 to help the over-fifties get to grips with cyberspace, has seen plenty of ups and downs. On the plus side, scores of customers have passed through their portals, emerging full of enthusiasm for the wonders of the World Wide Web and boosted by new-found self-esteem. On the minus side, fairy godmothers clutching wads of cash and waving guarantees of overnight success have proved to be just that — apparitions.

However, it seems that a happy ending is finally in sight for Hairnet. Solomon and Lambie are to launch a new series of courses in conjunction with a chain of Internet cafes, and they are exuberant about plans for Britain's first senior citizens' Web community, for which they hope to get funding.

"We didn't want to go back to working for bossy men," says Solomon, 28, who teamed up with Lambie after the latter left the Virtual Publishing House, which she established with a former boyfriend. Both had come to information technology relatively late: Lambie, 25, after studying art history at the Courtauld Institute, and Solomon after a languages degree at Oxford. "I remember at an interview three years ago being given a set of tests to do on a computer, and I didn't even know how to turn it on," she admits. "The woman came back and said: 'Why isn't your computer on?' I said: 'I like working in longhand.' She thought I was completely retarded."

This down-to-earth honesty has endeared Hairnet's founders to their clientele, who come from a huge potential constituency of people who grew up in pre-computer times and feel excluded from IT through fear, incomprehension and other people's attitudes, or a combination of all three. "So many courses are taught by people who have lived and breathed computers, but they speak an alien language," explains Lambie. "They exclude people right from the start."

Not that the pair are beginners: their Web design company, Electra, has done work for clients such as GMTV, the Saatchi Gallery and, currently, the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. But they admit that running their own business has involved some steep learning curves. A constant source of amazement is the lack of outside financial support, despite the worthiness of their mission to reskill Britain's ageing population.

They have, however, learnt some salutary lessons about the world of business, after an article in a national newspaper last June set the phones ringing with offers of venture capital and general advice. "We had phone calls from so many strange old men, faxing us bits of advice about what we were doing wrong," laughs Lambie. "We're not saying we're experienced in areas such as business development, but a lot of people meddle; they promise the earth and then waste your time. That's what happened to us," adds Solomon.

An apparent benefactor stepped forward to offer new premises — at one stage, they were working out of a Brighton kitchen — and funding. But less than six months later, it had come to nothing. "We realised we had been abandoned in October. It's really gutting to spend months working to a different agenda only to see it evaporate," says Solomon. "We learnt a lot from that," Lambie adds quickly. "We were two young women and people wanted to help us. But at the end of the day they were just out to get a return on their investment. We felt people had really to agree with what we were doing. It isn't going to be a massively commercial thing, but it's very worthwhile."

It is clear that both halves of Hairnet feel stung by the experience. But though backers have failed to judge their potential and grasp their mission, the pair remain undaunted. Their resilient spirit shows in the fact that Solomon's Christmas present to Lambie was a jokey home-made board game chronicling the company's disasters. Coming back to work after Christmas, they realised that they had to redefine their direction.

It seems that they cannot fail to succeed in the long term, if they have learnt from these early pitfalls. While a Microsoft report late last year indicated (misleadingly) that over-sixties use the Internet the most, others have not been slow to realise that the over-fifties are a cash-rich consumer team with the leisure time to browse for products and services on the Internet. "This year, electronic commerce is going to take off massively," Lambie predicts. "Over-fifties are potentially very good consumers who might like to shop from home if they trusted it. I hate to be cynical, but that's part of the reason to get people online."

The pair have already noticed that the clients who come to them are increasingly better informed. For that reason, their original seven-week course will be superseded in April by



Never too old to learn: Emma Solomon and Caroline Lambie help some of their clients get to grips with the Net

two-hour modules that can be strung together, covering topics as diverse as basic PC knowledge, electronic commerce, e-mail and surfing with syntax. Hairnet is also looking to recruit over-fifties with previous IT experience as trainers, to run the new courses. It has teamed up with the Costa Coffee chain and Café Internet, which is opening the first of five new London venues this month, and hopes to expand the idea nationwide. But commercial potential is not the principal concern of Hairnet's founders, who seem to be more interested in empowering their customers.

"As you get older, you have to unlearn things, and your memory goes a bit, so you need more repetition, but it's mostly confidence," says Lambie. "We get people to write down what they want. One man wrote that he wanted to control the machine because he felt it was controlling him. People have got this idea that computers do things without your knowing, such as eat up everything that you've done."

Solomon adds: "It's also [the fact that it's] non-linear, with layers of things, that did my head in completely at first. But with a bit of encouragement it can be enjoyable and fun, not stomach-churning."

Clients, they have found, are usually highly motivated, and may have a specific reason to learn: researching family genealogy, for example. Senior male managers on the course sometimes get a shock when elderly women are quicker to pick up the technology than they are. "Men are much more inclined to show off," Solomon says. "We get more women than men, and they tend to work quickly and unobtrusively. They are also more inclined to adapt."

She says that the social aspect has been a major factor in the course's attraction. One couple took it up as a retirement activity. Others have pursued romance as they have become competent on the keyboard. "We had a little e-mail flirtation on the last course. I peered over one woman's shoulder and saw what she had written. It had become common knowledge that the second row of the class had begun to be rather fruity."

Both Solomon and Lambie can see the advantages of building up a network of Hairnet clients as an active online community, where people can converse, exchange information about jobs and generally combat ageist Internet tendencies. There's even talk of a "New Deal" equivalent for those living in what is quickly becoming known as the Third Age.

"There are a lot of missed opportunities," says Lambie. "It is clear that this pair are determined not to fall into that trap, or let adversity erode their enthusiasm. Or, for that matter, let any bossy men get the better of them."

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Enterprise Developers: Specialists required with proven experience in HTML, Java, JavaScript, with an understanding of Networking and relational Database Technologies. Salary offered GBP 24-30K Gross.

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Interested candidates are requested to mail, fax or e-mail their full career details to: Megatron Corporation Ltd, 100, The Gateway, Middlesex, HA8 5DW. Fax: +44 181 537 8382 E-Mail: megatron@worldnet.com

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APPOINTMENTS DIARY

Monday IT, Science, Engineering	Wednesday Finance, Legal, Secretarial	Sunday Public, General
Tuesday Media, Marketing, Sales	Thursday Education, Graduate	

MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo Whiley, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Dave Pearce, 8.00 Lamacq Live, 12.00 The Breeze, 1.00 Zoe Ball, 2.00 Chris Moyles, 3.00 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Juliet Morris, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton, 8.00 Big Band Special, 8.30 Johnnie Walker, 9.30 Mark Lammie: Shale, Rattle and Roll, 10.30 Richard Ainsworth, 12.00 Lynn Parsons, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week: See Pick of the Day, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, given last October at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, introduced by Chris de Souza, Joan Rodgers (soprano), Julius Drake (piano), Poulenc: Fanciulla pour rire, Faure: Le Jardin des Roses, Op. 16, plus 3: 7: L'éléphant du Jardin des plantes; La source d'Anglet; Fido, Fido (Chants de Monsieur Bleu), 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, 4.00 Opera in Action, 4.45 Music Machine, 5.00 In Tune, 7.30 Performance on 3, Beginning a Monday-night concert season exploring the use of mythology in music. Jean Rigby (mezzo), BBC Philharmonic/Edward Downes. Bax: Tintagel, Bantock: Sappho, 8.20 Francesca da Rimini, Joseph Farrell explores the life and death of the adulteress Francesca da Rimini, whose story has inspired writers, painters and composers for more than five centuries, 8.40 Concert, part 2: Prokofiev: Suite 'Egyptian Nights', Tchaikovsky: Francesca da Rimini, 9.35 Postscript: A week of programmes exploring the ancient and continuing association of the arts with nation-building. Do a people

PICK OF THE DAY

IN 1827, THE first giraffe ever seen in France walked 550 miles from Marseilles to Paris. In Zarafa (9.45am R4FM), Michael Allin's book, read by Andrew Sachs, describes the effect this sensation had on the French (items of clothing and food were named after her) and what the episode said about relations between Europe and Africa.

The Artist of the Week (10.30am R3) is the conductor Bernard Haitink, who celebrates his 70th birthday on Thursday. Today he tells Joan Bakewell (right) about his early years in Holland as an orchestral violinist.

The Book at Bedtime (10.45pm R4) is Hemingway's name-making *The Sun Also Rises*, the novel which caught the sombre mood of the "lost generation".

DOMINIC CAVENTISH



meets celebrities who live for football. This week, Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, chooses his favourite Burnley players and reveals why match days are the only days he allows himself to take precedence over politics.

8.00 Trevor Brook's Monday Match. Full commentary on the Premiership clash between Leicester City and Leeds United. Plus the latest news from the European football scene.

10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today, including at 10.30 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 11.00 a late news briefing.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

EVENTS

CELEBRATE THE MONDAY
Music, Theatre and more...
10.30 Artist of the Week: See Pick of the Day.

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7.30 Performance on 3, Beginning a Monday-night concert season exploring the use of mythology in music. Jean Rigby (mezzo), BBC Philharmonic/Edward Downes. Bax: Tintagel, Bantock: Sappho, 8.20 Francesca da Rimini, Joseph Farrell explores the life and death of the adulteress Francesca da Rimini, whose story has inspired writers, painters and composers for more than five centuries, 8.40 Concert, part 2: Prokofiev: Suite 'Egyptian Nights', Tchaikovsky: Francesca da Rimini, 9.35 Postscript: A week of programmes exploring the ancient and continuing association of the arts with nation-building. Do a people

MUSIC

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Miss Evans' Boys (1997) (75975), 8.00 Home Front (1997) (28710), 10.00 Love at Large (1998) (54082), 12.00 Miss Evans' Boys (1997) (75975), 1.00 Home Front (1997) (28710), 3.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (1998), 4.00 Love at Large (1998) (54082), 6.00 Forever Love (1998) (70587), 8.00 Intimate Relations (1998) (54782), 10.00 Last Man Standing (1998) (59875), 11.45 The Mirror Has Two Faces (1998) (42342), 1.30 The Proprietor (1998) (54598), 3.45 - 6.00 The Great White Hope (1998) (779553).

SKY MOVIE
6.00 Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1997) (23077), 7.30 Movie Magic (1998) (54598), 8.45 Action Heroes (1998) (54782), 10.00 Last Man Standing (1998) (59875), 11.45 The Mirror Has Two Faces (1998) (42342), 1.30 The Proprietor (1998) (54598), 3.45 - 6.00 The Great White Hope (1998) (779553).

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Desert Race (1953) (745223), 6.00 King Kong (1933) (285772), 8.00 The Gunfight (1950) (285772), 10.00 Spontaneous (1945) (706507), 11.55 Zardoz (1973) (383807), 1.45 The Three Faces of Eve (1957) (521787), 3.20 Artists and Models (1955) (503280), 5.05 Close.

FILMFOUR
6.00 Things Change (1988) (276373), 7.40 Fake (1982) (28034), 9.00 Kids Are All Right (1987) (680079), 9.50 Hard Nut (1994) (10.00 The Slab Boys (1997) (324602), 11.45 Stand by Me (1986) (324602), 1.45 The Innocents (1961) (324602), 3.45 - 6.00 A Turning of the Earth (1934) (656).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (148733), 4.30 Walkers World (143723), 5.00 Time Travelers (183238), 5.30 Terra X (183757), 6.00 Wildlife SOS (125888), 6.30 Adventures of the Quest (134979), 7.30 The Quest (143932), 8.00

SATELLITE AND CABLE

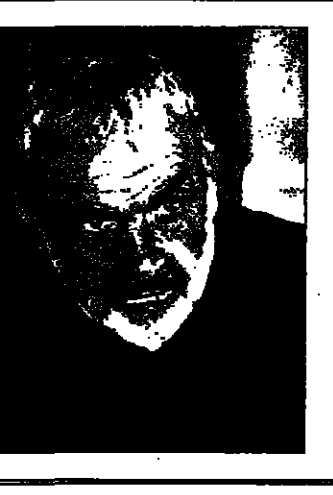
PICK OF THE DAY

SEAN CONNERY (right) may have allegedly been denied a knighthood by the Government, but there is no doubting his popularity with audiences and producers. He has managed to escape 007 typecasting - he once said, "I have always hated that damn James Bond. I'd like to kill him" - to become like the proverbial good wine, just getting better with age. Perhaps most sickeningly, even well into his sixties, he continues to top polls

to find the world's sexiest man. His enduring appeal is analysed in today's Action Heroes (2.15pm Sky Moviesmax).

The two young Irishmen, David O'Leary and Martin O'Neill, have emerged as astute Premiership managers and they meet this evening in Ford Monday Night Football (7pm Sky Sports 1). O'Leary's Leeds United travel to Fulbert Street where they meet O'Neill's Leicester City.

JAMES RAMPTON



Children (722917), 7.40 Dad's Army (488040), 8.20 Brittas Empire (282449), 9.00 Casualty (271593), 10.05 Hamish Macbeth (125044), 11.00 Open All Hours (190420), 11.50 The Bill (199533), 12.50 Blackadder II (199533), 1.00 The Bill (199533), 1.50 The Bill (199533), 2.00 The Bill (199533), 2.50 The Bill (199533), 3.00 The Bill (199533), 3.50 The Bill (199533), 4.00 The Bill (199533), 4.50 The Bill (199533), 5.00 The Bill (199533), 5.50 The Bill (199533), 6.00 The Bill (199533), 6.50 The Bill (199533), 7.00 The Bill (199533), 7.50 The Bill (199533), 8.00 The Bill (199533), 8.50 The Bill (199533), 9.00 The Bill (199533), 9.50 The Bill (199533), 10.00 The Bill (199533), 10.50 The Bill (199533), 11.00 The Bill (199533), 11.50 The Bill (199533), 12.00 The Bill (199533), 12.50 The Bill (199533), 1.00 The Bill (199533), 1.50 The Bill (199533), 2.00 The Bill (199533), 2.50 The Bill (199533), 3.00 The Bill (199533), 3.50 The Bill (199533), 4.00 The Bill (199533), 4.50 The Bill (199533), 5.00 The 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Channel 5

6.00 5 News and Sport (3103082), 7.00 WideWorld (F)
(S) (T) (B352655), 7.30 Milkshake! (S) (2877081), 7.35
Winable House (F) (485030), 8.00 5 News and Sport

8.00 Was it Good for You? (S) (R2701) **4.25**

9.00 The Untouchables (S) (R2601) **4.50**

Rental: **8.00** Was it Good for You? (S) (R2701) **4.25**

9.00 The Untouchables (S) (R2601) **4.50**

The Great Whinery Show (S)(R3503), **2.50** Sunset Beach (S) (S385984), **11.00** Leland (S) (R2601), **12.00** News at Noon (S) (T) (R27222), **13.50** Funny Affairs (S) (I) (N60342), **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (R230588), **1.25** The Evening Show (I) (S) (R36673), **2.00** Top Gun Cold (S) (R35942), **2.50** Good Afternoon (S) (R361830).

3.30 ELIN: The Punish and Jaily Men (Jeremy Summers Rge KY, Dial comic vehicle for Tony Hancock, which carries on a satirical puppeteer (Hancock) who hates class snobbery but whose wife (Sybil Sims) has high social ambitions (T) (W50567).

5.20 Sunset Beach, American comedy series. Another learns that the man who stole the airplanes died. It's over.

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show which needs a host
(S) (2672823).

6.00 6.30 Family Affairs. "Cale awakes with a bruised face." It
says here (S) (7) (2683979).

Z30 *Champions of Nature*. Wildlife documentary which looks at the struggle to protect the habitat of the polar bear from pollution. (S) (T) (268918).

8:30 Animal ER. Salsbury vets. A pregnant mare gets caught on a barbed-wire fence while attempting to give birth. (S) (T) (933.7813).

9.00 Making the Cut. The second installment of a three-part feature-length drama about two detectives investigating a brutal crime in an Irish coastal town. Sean McGinley and Andrea Irvine star as the copsare following the trail to Dublin (S) (7) (673536).

.00 Dr Fox's Chart Update (S) (p070933).
.05 V (R) (S) (3537739). 1.00 Live and Dangerous (S)
(189240). 1.35 Live and Dangerous (continued) (S)
(67542163) 4.40 Pioneer Cell Block H (7726547)


5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (5) (804-4289). To 6am.



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FILM OF THE DAY

11.00 Dr. Fox's Chart Update (S) (6070933),
11.05 V (T) (S) (3531739), **1.00** Live and Dangerous (S)
 (7082200), **1.35** Live and Dangerous (Continued) (S)
 (60524103), **4.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (7263482),
5.50 100 Per Cent (T) (S) (6004289), to beam.

9.100 Making the Cut. The second installment of a three-part feature-length drama about two detectives investigating a brutal crime in an Irish coastal town. Sean McGinley and Andrea Irvine star as the cops, following the trail to Dublin (S) (TV) (R773539).

7.30 Champions of Nature. Wildlife documentary with looks at the struggle to protect the habitat of the porcupine caracaras from pollution. (S) (T) (6893758).

8.00 Instant Gardens. Computer-aided garden-design programmes with the aptly named Joe Flower. (S) (T) (8232176).

8.30 Animal ER. Salisbury vets. A pregnant mare gets caught on a barbed-wire fence while attempting to give birth. (S) (T) (8337913).

6.00 **400 Per Cent.** The game show which made a hit (S) (267262).

6.30 **Fanny Brice.** Claims swashes with a bruised face every time (S) (T) (2663979).

7.00 **6 News.** Including First on Five. News on the spot with Henry Jones (S) (T) (2663979).

[illegible]

6.00 5 News and Sport (310302), **7.00** **WideWorld** (S) (7) (352555), **7.30** **Mikhael** (S) (2877081), **Wimzies House** (R) (458870), **8.00** **Hanikazoo** (S) (353333), **8.30** **Dappledawn Farm** (R) (S) (287878), **8.00** **Was It Good for You?** (R) (S) (326077), **9.25** **Russell Grants Postcards** (R) (453552), **9.30** **Th...**

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 1 March 1989

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]